

1429.d.10.

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

ITALY.

AND THE EFFECTS OF THE
BRITISH COMMERCE

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

ON

ITALY.

1849
OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS
OF
ITALY.

K Brooke (N)

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS
OF
ITALY,

WITH REMARKS ON THE VAST IMPORTANCE OF
BRITISH COMMERCE
ON THAT CONTINENT;

ALSO,
PARTICULARS OF THE WONDERFUL EXPLOSION OF
MOUNT VESUVIUS,

Taken on the Spot at Midnight, in June, 1794,

When the beautiful and extensive City of TORRE DEL GRECO was buried
under the blazing River of Lava from the Mountain;

LIKEWISE,
AN ACCOUNT OF VERY MANY EXTRAORDINARY CURES PRO-
DUCED BY A PREPARATION OF

O P I U M,
IN A VARIETY OF OBSTINATE CASES, ACCORDING TO THE
PRACTICE IN ASIA;

With many PHYSICAL REMARKS collected in ITALY, well deserving
the Attention of most Families.

—●●●●—
BY A GENTLEMAN

Authorised to investigate the Commerce of that Country with Great-Britain.

BATH, PRINTED BY R. CRUTTWELL;
AND SOLD BY
T. CADELL, JUN. AND W. DAVIES, STRAND, LONDON.

1798.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY.

WITH REMARKS ON THE VAST IMPORTANCE OF
BRITISH COMMERCE
ON THAT CONTINENT.

ALSO,
PARTICULARS OF THE WONDERFUL EXPLOSION OF

MOUNT VESUVIUS.

Taken on the 8th at midnight, in June, 1794.
When the beautiful and extensive City of TORONTO DEL GRECO was buried
under the flowing River of Lava from the Mountain;

BY

AN ACCOUNT OF VERY MANY EXTRAORDINARY CASES PRO-
DUCED BY THE INFLUENCE OF

46
49
47
43
P. 11
M. 11

IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS, ACCORDING TO THE
NATURE OF THE CLIMATE.

With many PHYSICAL REASONS, collected in ITALY, well deserving
the attention of the Philosophers.



BY

Published in London, at the Corner of the Strand near Great Britain.

LONDON: PRINTED BY R. CRUTTENDEN.

AND SOLD BY

T. CADELL, JUN. AND W. DAVIES, STRAND, LONDON.

1798.

TO

HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF LEEDS,

8c. 8c. 8c.

MY LORD,

YOUR Grace, while one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, ever anxious for the increase of British Commerce, was pleased to honour me, on my leaving England, some years ago, with letters to several of his Majesty's Ministers in Italy, requesting them to confer with me on whatever I might have to propose for the benefit of Trade.

On transmitting from time to time my various Observations, I was happy to be informed by your Under Secretary, that they not only met with approbation, but that your Grace also conceived them to be of much national importance.

Encouraged

Encouraged by your Grace's favourable opinion, I continued to transmit other Remarks on Commerce to his Majesty's Secretary of State in the same department from which your Grace had thought proper to retire.

In my leisure hours I also took a view of the Laws, Manners, and Customs of Italy; and having formed them into a small volume, I have presumed to dedicate it to your Grace. Should any of my observations have escaped you, while visiting that part of the continent, I dare flatter myself that this weak mark of my gratitude will be received with condescension and indulgence.

I have the honour to be,

With the most profound respect,

Your Grace's most humble

and most obedient Servant,

N. Brooke.

BATH, June 11th, 1798.

[iii]

PREFACE.

I *BEG* leave to assure my Readers, that when the following Letters were written, it was not with the least intention of laying them before the Public; they were written partly for the purpose of filling up vacant Hours in tedious Journies, and to convey some Ideas to a Friend in Switzerland, who had an intention to make the Tour of Italy, with his Family.

Having suffered much by the incursions of the French in Italy, and being deprived of Sight, by Cataracts formed upon my Eyes, for which I had found no effectual relief from the Operations I underwent in that Country, I resolved, after residing there more than eleven Years, to return to England, and by a very tedious and hazardous Journey, through Savoy and France, happily arrived here in February 1798.

Having shewn Copies of these Letters to my Friends, they were desirous of my publishing them, and chiefly on the score of Humanity, from the extraordinary account of the many good effects produced by a particular Preparation of that invaluable Medicine Opium. On that principle, I was induced to consent, and although a
few

few of the Letters may seem to be of a private nature, yet I have taken the whole of them from my Common-place Book, and now present them to the Public in their original Dress; trusting to the Generosity and Candour of the Reader, to pass over any Defects, as they were sent to the Press at a time when I had it not in my Power to reperuse them, for want of the Blessing of Sight; which, I firmly confide in the Goodness of the Almighty, I shall in some measure regain by the Assistance of an able Oculist in my own Country.

THE AUTHOR.

ERRATA.

Page 3, line 15, for *servente*, read *servanté*.

Page 69, line 15, for *any part*, read *any other part*.

Page 76, line 6, for 1796, read 1794.

Page 90, line 5 from the bottom, for *teipsum*, read *te ipsum*.

Page 95, line 4 from the bottom, for 1796, read 1794.

Page 110, line 13, for *ill*, read *till*.

Page 207, line 5 from the bottom, for July 7th, read July 17th.



LETTER I.

H. F. ESO; *BERNE.*

Leghorn, March 24, 1794.

DEAR SIR,

YOU will not for some time hear any more of me from hence, as this day I have received a letter from London, from my friend John Knill, esq; with one inclosed from the Right Hon. Lord Grenville, which I am to deliver in person to the British Envoy at Naples; I shall therefore not be able to give you any further news of what passes here; but I will trouble you, from time to time, with a recital of those occurrences which may happen on my present journey.

B

You

You must not expect much account of Paintings, Statues, &c. from me, as you will find them related and described by various travellers. My letters to you will be of such incidents as I hear and see; and you will direct your next to me at Naples, as I do not know where I shall stop on the road. I wish you health and happiness, being with great regard, dear Sir,

Your friend, and
humble servant,

N. BROOKE.

LETTER II.

Siena, March 27, 1794.

THE Country from Leghorn to this city, through Pisa, is highly cultivated, and may be called a delightful garden,*

* I could not learn that any marle is used in Italy, therefore arable lands distant from towns feel a want of manure. In many places I observed that the farmers substituted lupins, the plants of which producing a green full pod, are taken up by the roots, laid in furrows, and the earth thrown over them; and some of the farmers told me that, thus managed, they form a very fat manure.

abounding

abounding not only with all sorts of grain, but also with every kind of fruit natural to the climate.

I this day dined with Mr. Grinfield, brother to the General, a worthy man; he seems perfectly happy, and eats heartily, but makes no use of salt, pepper, or any sauce, and never drinks any thing but pure water. His dress is very plain, with this peculiarity, that his neck is uncovered both in winter and summer.* His house is about two miles from this city, which is occupied sometimes by his friend, a Lady, the wife of a Nobleman of Siena, to whom he is *cicisbeo*, or *cavalier servente*; at other times he takes his abode at her house.

As you have not been in this country, I must explain to you, that these friendships, or name them what you will, are common all over Italy: and the married ladies do not blemish their character by having such a friend; but it would be considered as prudish if they were to live excluded from

* Perhaps he is freer from colds than those who carry a load of cravating about their necks.

this custom. The Husband is perfectly satisfied, because he is *cicisbeo* to some married lady himself. Such connections are rarely broken, but often continue for life. The gentleman goes every morning to visit the lady in her own apartment, and there receives notice to what sort of amusement he is to accompany her in the evening; for whether she goes to public places, or to private families, he must be her companion. Nor are unmarried gentlemen exempted from these occupations; but young ladies are not so privileged, which makes them more desirous of matrimony. I must, however, say, that this kind of connection is not entirely confined to the Italians, for some of our English in Italy have willingly caught the infection. This custom is surprising, when we consider that the Italians were some years ago the most jealous people in Europe.

In this city the Italian language is spoken with more exactness than in any other part of Tuscany.

On my arrival here I paid a visit to the Countess Piccolomini, a lady of great vivacity,

city, who had dined with me at Leghorn, and in return offered me a bed at her house.

I wish you a good night's rest, which I hope also to have, being a little fatigued with a long walk round this ancient city, about four miles in circumference, and which is said to have been built by Romulus and Remus; whose statues, with one of their wolf-nurse, are erected in various places on public buildings.

LETTER III.

Acqua Pendente, March 31, 1794.

I LAY last night at Radicofani, the confines of Tuscany towards the Roman State. The Inn stands on the summit of a very ragged high mountain; all beside is desert, chaos, silent. I was confined there this morning; the wind blew almost a tempest, with incessant heavy rain, in the midst of which a lady came to the inn, very decently dressed, with a bundle under her arm, the water running from her as if she had been dragged

dragged through a river. In this condition she was imploring the landlord of the inn to convey her to Acqua Pendente, where she said she had friends to supply her with money. This he brutishly refused, pretending he had no carriage or horses but those which were already engaged. Compassion then made me enquire how she came there in that situation? She answered, " I am going into
 " the Roman state; the carriage which had
 " been hired for me is broken to pieces two
 " miles off, where I have left a servant to
 " take care of my things, while I came to
 " the inn to seek means to pursue my
 " journey." I said that I would carry her to Acqua Pendente; on which she offered me a valuable ring as a security for such expences as I should be at on her account. This I did not accept, but invited her to my chamber, where there was a good fire, as she was shivering with cold, while tears of grief ran from her eyes. Her apparel was too wet to dry upon her, so I lent her a pair of stockings, a shirt, a long white flannel gown, and a great-coat lined with fur. While she was adjusting this dress, I went down to my driver

driver or postillion, to agree with him to carry her and her servant twenty miles; as by my bargain with him he was not obliged to take any other person than myself and servant. I found him very moderate, but he begged me to set out immediately, the weather being somewhat abated. During the time the horses were putting to the carriage, I went up to the room to call the lady, whom I found already dressed in the clothes I had lent her; at which sudden metamorphosis I could not help smiling, and was glad to find it had the same effect on her. We then set off, and at the bottom of the hill we found her servant-man with the baggage, which being fastened together with mine behind the chaise, on which the two men also sat, we pursued our road across the river Elvelle to Pontecentino, the first town in the Papal state. The lady said it would be ungrateful to conceal from me the intent of her journey, which was to go to Rome, being a lady in waiting to Madame ——,* then at Rome, and that she had a credit for money with the

* One of the Aunts of the late unfortunate King, Louis the Sixteenth.

Bishop of Acqua Pendente. On our arriving here, the first enquiry was for the Bishop, and she was thrown into new grief on finding that he was gone to Rome.

It being too late to proceed any farther this night, we were shewn into apartments in the inn. While the fire was making, I went down to the postillion, and agreed with him to carry all of us to Rome, which intelligence she received in a manner I cannot well describe; but recollecting that I had met with almost similar hospitality when formerly going through Spain, I felt a great pleasure to relieve others in the like distress.

While supper was preparing, she opened her bundle of wet linen to spread the contents on the chairs before the fire. In the bosom of the wet shift that she had pulled off, was fastened a small silk bag, which she eagerly ripped away, and held close in her hand; conceiving it to be the relick of a Saint, or some charm, I requested to see what she seemed so desirous to conceal.

After supper, relying on my honour, she put the small bag into my hands, containing six large diamonds; the value of which she said

said (and I believe) was more than seventy thousand pounds, part of the property of the late unfortunate King, which were to be delivered to his two aunts, then at Rome. She then retired to her chamber, which gave me an opportunity of writing to you.

This city is the first in the Roman state, after leaving Tuscany; of which I cannot say much in favour, or of the inn where we are lodged.

LETTER IV.

Viterbo, April 1, 1794.

I ROSE very early this morning, and having seen our baggage fastened to the carriage, went up to the room to call the lady, whom I found already dressed very neatly, but proper for the journey. She appeared to be a young woman of fashion, but rather inclining to *embonpoint*.

I had no small dispute with the Host of Acqua Pendente, whose charges for a dinner, or rather bad supper and worse apartments, were enormous. He said that his bill would have been much less, if we had been satisfied
with

with one room only, in which were two beds; as other people of high consequence had been often so accommodated: I then put on the table what money I thought he merited, which he took up without thanks, and we departed.

Having had last night no rest, occasioned by a disagreeable heartburn, perhaps from the bad wine at the inn, (although I drank very little) I fell asleep in the carriage, and did not awake till we arrived at the pretty town St. Lorenzo Nuovo, built by Pope Gan- ganelli; and while the driver was giving his horses some water, we took a dish of coffee at a house we found open, although it was not day-light. We pursued our journey one post more, to Borsena, where there is a very large lake abounding with good fish; at which place the driver said he must feed his horses, and we determined also to dine, though very early, it being only eleven o'clock.

I could not help observing how much better and more cheerful Janetta appeared, (for so the lady desired me to call her) to which replying that her situation with me was so very different than when we first met, she
could

could not but be cheerful; recollecting also the difficulty she had lately encountered in travelling through France, sometimes lying in barns; adding, that her parents were of distinction in Switzerland, though she had lived some years in France, but being left destitute of friends at the Revolution, and by some other fatality too long now to mention, she had been obliged to marry a man much below herself; and that she was some months pregnant;—at which words she rose, and went into another apartment, as I suppose to give more vent to some tears which had begun to flow.

At one o'clock we got into the carriage, and passing the bishoprick of Monte Fiascone, we arrived at this city, which is pretty large, has many fine churches, and is also a bishoprick. We were fortunate enough at being at last admitted into the inn where we first stopt, as we had refused to alight there, because the landlord said that he had only one room vacant; but after finding the other inn full, we returned, and with much difficulty were received by the surly host. Our baggage being carried up, I told him he must give us two beds; one was already in an alcove concealed

cealed by a large curtain, which the lady of course was to have, and the other was to be placed at the bottom of the room; however, our situation did not prove the worst in the house. The chamber next to ours contained two beds; one was occupied by a gentleman and his wife, the other by a gentleman pilgrim, unknown to each other; in several of the other rooms were two or more beds, in which travellers were constrained to lay two together, as the inn was so crowded.

It being nine o'clock we desired to have our supper as soon as possible, as we were to depart very early the next morning.

It is wonderful to see the crouds of people going to, and coming from Rome before and after Lent: some go thither through devotion, others to be there in the Holy-Week to see the Pope wash the feet of pilgrims, and other religious ceremonies.

Having been this road two years before, and examining my memoranda, I found that we were about forty miles from Rome, which our driver said was too much for one day's journey. Fearing you may find my letter too long, I conclude, wishing you health.

CHARACTER

LETTER V.

CHARACTER OF THE ITALIANS.

TO DRAW a true picture of this curious race from the ancient Romans would be totally impracticable, as prejudice or friendship would naturally interfere; I will, however, attempt the outlines, and as I go on in my journey, will venture to shade and colour them, keeping in mind the words of Othello,

“ Speak of them as they are; nothing extenuate,
“ Nor set down aught in malice.”

The first rank of people in Italy live in a voluptuous manner, and keep an elegant table; they are charitable, but carry their combined resentment to a destructive degree in case any tradesman should venture to offend them; pleasure is their chief object, in which they indulge without a wish of hiding it.

The second class are equally good to the poor; but œconomy is well attended to for the table, in order to keep up an outward grandeur; for they must have a box at the theatre, one or more carriages, and dress handsomely. Their meals are regulated by the cook at a price per day, according to their income, and
he

he takes care to lay on the table no more than is sufficient for each meal. I have dined elegantly at some such tables with the best country wine. A few glasses of foreign wine are handed about during the repast, and as soon as the desert is finished, coffee is put on the table; after which the visitors retire, and the family prepare for their evening entertainment.

The third class (say, the mechanics) are by no means rich; they are poor imitators of foreign articles, and worse inventors; for the boys serve no apprenticeships, and each person can set up his trade without controul.

The labourers in husbandry seem to be most happy; they are hired by the year, and at the end of their day's labour are sure to find something to eat. It is not so with the labourers to mechanics, who are hired by the day, and turned off at will; and the many holidays by Church order tend to keep them miserable.

There are very few poor or alms-houses in Italy, and those, by bad management, do not afford enough for the unfortunate to exist on, which occasions mendicity without restraint; and those rich inhabitants
who

who are inclined to charity, seek for objects in their neighbourhood worthy of their beneficence. The mode of such contribution is, on Saturdays, when the poor that are to be supplied surround the door of their benefactor, and the master or steward gives to each what is allotted; it appears at first view to be ostentatious, but I do not dislike it, as it stimulates others to similar charity.

To supply the daily tables of the inhabitants there are no stated market-days, but every morning the necessaries of life can be purchased.

Butchers' shops are limited to a certain number, according to the inhabitants, and the price of meat is settled by the Magistrate. The beef that is generally eaten is of one year's growth, sweet and tender; the ox-beef is of a less price, and no genteel housekeeper will have any at his table.

Few people in Italy will eat mutton, as the ladies insist that it causes hysterics.

All kinds of poultry are good, but geese and ducks are in no estimation.

Game of all kinds are sent to the market by the possessors of lands, but hares are
seldom

seldom eaten, as they esteem them no other than wild cats.

OIL SHOPS

are licensed, and not only limited in number but also in the articles for sale, viz. oil, cheese, butter, paste (commonly called *macaroni*) of various shapes, dry white kidney-beans, dry lentils, the meal and flour of Indian corn, dry pease, all sorts of salted fish from Great-Britain, &c. such as salted salmon, dry cod, smoked red herrings, and pilchards; so that from these shops and the green market all ranks of people are supplied on meagre days.

The paste or macaroni is eaten in soup and stews, and no family thinks a good dinner can be laid on the table without it. I cannot but wonder it is not grown more into use in England, as its cost does not exceed the price of fine flour.

The flour of Indian corn is of general use for the rich and poor; its value about one third of the flour of wheat; it is esteemed very nutritious, and forms a variety of dishes.

White dry kidney beans and lentils are dressed as pease-soup, or stewed in various ways,

ways, and are infinitely more palatable than dry pease.

The cones of the pine-tree, when ripe, are sold to chandlers' shops; the cone is heated and beaten, and the seeds daily picked out; when fresh, they make a plate for the fruit desert, and besides their medicinal property, in my opinion are preferable to almonds. The empty cones are sold to housekeepers for lighting fires.

The produce of gardens is very abundant, and cheap, particularly green peas and beans; these two latter articles grow only in the spring, the heat of the summer being too powerful for a longer continuance.

Oil of the best sort is principally used in many dishes instead of butter, being thought more palatable and digestive; indeed the common people will not eat butter, even if they can get no oil, not that they dislike the taste, but they think it unwholesome.

DEER, GAME, &c.

There was once in Tuscany a vast number of *deer*; but the Grand Duke being informed by one of his Ministers that they did great
c
damage

damage to his park and forest-trees, immediately gave leave to his subjects to shoot them; a massacre took place, and in less than one month twenty thousand of these fine animals were destroyed. The flesh was sold at the public markets for three farthings per pound; the poor soon grew tired of eating it, and the animals were continued to be killed for the sake of their skins; great quantities of the flesh were brought to Leghorn, and the captains of ships supplied their crews with it, instead of salt beef. This was before my time, but I am well informed of the fact.

The late Grand Duke Leopold, in his wisdom, ordered his parks to be new stocked with deer, and they are now so increased as to permit a quantity of them to be brought to market, and to be sold at the price of beef.

I do not find that there is any great number of these delicious animals in other parts of Italy; the meat of which is not esteemed by the natives. I have several times seen it for sale in Rome, and have bought some, and I think it very high-flavoured.

Meat

Meat of the wild-boar is frequently brought to market in the winter, and sold at a very low price; I have eaten of it, but cannot say that it is so good as I have heard it represented.

Pork meat is very fat and savoury; it is not permitted to be brought to market till the beginning of October, and forbidden to be sold after the first day of Lent; the fat of the animal is very solid, having been fed in the woods with chesnuts.

Besides the birds called Game, there are in Italy wild geese and ducks; also woodcocks, snipes, thrushes, ortolans, beccaficos, quails, larks, and every other small bird that flies, even the poor robin, are abundantly brought to market. There is nothing of the feathered kind, or scarcely any of the animal productions of the earth and forests, but what are eaten in Italy.

WINE.

Every province in Italy produces wines; many of which are of a most agreeable flavour, and would be much esteemed in England,

but the conveyance of them to the sea-coast, where there is no water carriage, would be too expensive. The average price of wine is about six-pence the quart; that of Florence, called *chienti*, I prefer to any in Italy.

Being at Montefiascone, (famous for excellent wine) while the horses were feeding, I walked out from the inn, and entering into a church, I saw a magnificent mausoleum with the figure of a bishop, and in the front were inscribed *Est, Est, Est*. Inquiring of a priest what it meant; he told me, that a German Bishop going to Rome, stopped to dine in that city, and hearing of its excellent wine, he made a motion for some of the best to be brought, and not understanding Italian, he exclaimed in Latin on their bringing ordinary wine, *non est, non est*, meaning that it was not the best; at last they brought him the very best; at which he rejoiced, saying *Est, est, est*, and he drank so deep of this precious liquor, that he died intoxicated that very night, and a tomb was ordered to be erected by his glad relation, with the inscription of his last words, *Est, est, est*.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

Viterbo, April 2, 1794.

WHILST I was finishing my last letter, the solemn bell of a neighbouring convent was calling the nuns to midnight devotion. There are some who, with a cold indifference to the pleasures of the world, cloister themselves, and may be happy, if they think by such celibacy they are not breaking the divine commands: many others of far opposite feelings are rendered miserable in being immured by rigid parents, and may have cause to lament and exclaim with the unhappy Eloisa,

“The matin lamp in vain I burn for thee,
 “Thy image steals between my God and me.”

My companion Janetta was just then gone to bed, when her servant Antonio entered the room, and with a dismal face said, that he had lost his pocket-book on the road with her passport in it; at which she suddenly exclaimed, “Good God! what is then to become of me?” and fell into an hysteric fit so strong as to employ both of us to hold her. It beginning a little to abate, I sent the ser-

vant to call the landlady, who could not come being herself indisposed. Having with me some opium of the purest kind (a present from a Turkish gentleman, of whom I shall make mention in a future letter) I gave her a little of it, which had so good an effect as to restore her to her senses. I then told her that the post for Rome would set out the next afternoon, by which she must write to her friends to procure her another passport; and in case it should not arrive the next day, she could be dressed in man's clothes, and pass for my servant, for as he was a native of Rome, he could enter the city without any passport: this made her easy. I then dismissed her servant, and advised her to go to sleep; doing the same myself, as it was past three o'clock.

At nine I arose, and examining her servant as to the loss of her passport, I had reason to suspect his story was false; as I found he wished to return to Genoa with a gentleman then going thither. He had been hired by the lady's friend in that city to go with her to Rome, and his wages were fully paid for the same; seeing no good cause to detain him, he was dismissed.

I desired

I desired to have tea for breakfast, which the landlord could not give us, saying it was never used here but by sick people, though perhaps some might be found at the apothecaries' shops. The small quantity that I had brought from Leghorn being exhausted, I walked out, and having procured some, came home to breakfast, after which Janetta wrote her letters to Rome, and desiring me to read them, they were sent off by the post: I advised her to keep in bed till dinner was ready, which I ordered at four o'clock.

As I had been in this city before, and received some civility from a worthy family, I paid them a visit, and we were invited in the evening to what is called *aconversazione*.

On returning to the inn I found that Antonio was gone with his new master, and my servant confirmed my suspicion that the passport was not lost, but that it was a Genoese imposition. Dinner being ready, we sat down comfortably, when I told the lady of our evening's engagement, which she did not much approve of, but would not oppose what I had promised; although she seemed more inclined

clined to employ her time in fitting the man's cloaths to be in readiness to depart, in case the passport did not arrive.

I gave her one of my short waistcoats that was easily made fit, and also a pair of nankeen breeches, which she proposed to try on at night previous to making any alteration; and over all she was to wear my servant's great coat with a red collar.

As we were not to pay our visit till eight o'clock, she began to relate, by my desire, the circumstances of her family, and the situation that induced her to marry, and *how she had travelled on foot in disguise from Paris to Marseilles*, from thence to Genoa, from which city she embarked for Lerici, accompanied by her servant. Fearful that her spirits were then too much agitated to proceed any further, I desired her story might be continued at a future period.

LETTER

LETTER VII.

Viterbo, April 3, 1794.

THE affecting manner in which Jannetta last night related her melancholy adventures, could not fail leaving a deep impression; to get rid of which we immediately went to our friend's house, where we found the company had already assembled, which was composed of married ladies, with each their *cicisbeos* or *ganzos*; this latter word more properly implies a *lover*, whereas the former is not so expressive.

It being cold weather, most of the ladies had brass or silver boxes, with fire in them, under their feet, and when they found the heat declined, they desired the ashes might be stirred up by their ganzos; this office they tamely performed with a small silver sword, about six inches long, which they always kept in their pocket for that purpose; this instrument was made in shape like those of iron used by the soldiers of ancient Rome, when their victorious legions marched against
their

their foes. On this effeminacy I leave you to make what reflections you please.

After the company had been served with warm punch or lemonade, the card-tables were placed, each lady with her gentleman. As we did not understand their games; we walked about the room as others did who were not inclined to play, and at 10'clock we took leave of my friend, who made us promise to go with him the following night to see the ceremony of signing the matrimonial writings of a young couple, who were soon after to be united.

On returning to our inn we desired the landlord to give us a chicken for supper, which he said he could not do, as he had none then in the house, it being Lent. This did not distress us, as we could easily put up with a meagre repast. Whilst it was preparing, the lady retired behind the curtain to try on the breeches, and afterwards returning, she sat down to fit them for herself. Whilst at her needle, she asked why men should be dressed so very different from women? My answer not being satisfactory, I desired her opinion; in this not agreeing,
we

we dropt the subject, and after supper, she chearfully and with a pleasing air, for the first time, sung several songs.

Her male habit being adjusted, we retired to rest, and this morning she came to breakfast attired as a servant, asking me how I liked her then as my man? "Not so well, (said I) as when you were my woman:" "Then, sir, I will soon become your woman again."

Breakfast being over, she resumed the story of her dear family, as she called them, and the reasons that obliged her to marry a man she did not like. She said that such a marriage being a civil contract, would cease to exist in a few years; till then she hoped to remain concealed, which was the reason of her being now under a feigned name. The particulars of her history, and that of the late unfortunate King and Queen, to whom she had frequent access, though very interesting, I shall at present omit, on account of this lady, whose personal accomplishments merit every protection.

Hearing the sound of a hand-bell in the street, I looked out of the window, and saw
a small

a small procession with a dead corpse. What sort of ceremony they have here I do not know, but I will tell you the custom at Leghorn. The place of interment there is on the out-side of the city-walls, and is called *Campo Santo*. It is a large quadrangle, open in the centre, with a roof round its sides supported by colonnades, under which roof are large vaults; on the top of each is a hole big enough to admit the dropping in the naked dead bodies, with their heads downwards. The hole is afterwards covered over with a stone, until other bodies are brought for interment. These vaults being on a level with the sea, and the water penetrating into them, the bodies were kept afloat, and by that means too long in a putrid state; but it has lately been ordered by the police, that the vaults should be discontinued, and the dead buried in graves in the open ground within the walls of the same *Campo Santo*, into which three at a time are thrown naked without coffins, and without distinction of sex or person; so that the highest and the lowest are mingled together. Twelve hours after

after death* the corpse is carried with little ceremony on a bier through the streets, from which it is thrown out on a large table placed in Campo Santo, where it remains without any covering till two others are brought, they are then put into the grave together, whilst a priest performs a short burial service, without the presence of either friends or relations.

The English Factory have a burial-place of their own, where the dead are interred according to protestant rites, attended by their chaplain. I shall drop this dismal subject, as we are going to see the more joyful ceremony of joining a young couple in the happy bonds of matrimony.

* So suddenly taking the corpse to the place of interment, has caused, I fear, many to be buried alive. Two I know at Leghorn, who recovered while carrying through the streets; one of them now goes under the appellation of *Morte*, and is a Poulterer.

LETTER VIII.

Viterbo, April 4, 1794.

I WENT last night to the house of a young lady's father to hear her marriage-contract read. The company being assembled, the writings were placed by a public notary on a table in the centre of the room, round which were seated the parents, and the lady and gentleman who were to be married. The contract was then read aloud, in which was specified the fortune of the lady, including all her clothes by an inventory annexed to the marriage writing, both of which were signed by the contracting parties. This being done, the bride presented a paper of sweetmeats to the gentlemen, with a sonnet elegantly printed, in which were mentioned the high rank and virtues of both families. The bridegroom gave the like present to the ladies.

In the next room, on a very long table, were arranged the clothes of the bride (which are called *coredo*) from the shoes to the head-dress, both new and old; the matrimonial shift was conspicuously placed, which was of
very

very fine linen, open from the neck to the feet, fastened only at the centre with a single ribband, so that it might be called a very large bed-gown; on which the company, both old and young, displayed their jocund talents*, and the young couple were merrily jested with on the occasion. A profusion of dry sweet-meats were handed about, with abundance of refreshments: the company crammed into their pockets (as usual) whatever they thought proper of the former.

Marriages do not always take place immediately after the contract is signed, but sometimes remain to be consummated for many weeks or months; the young lady, however, has then the privilege of going abroad accompanied by the young man, with her mother, and she is during that time called *sposina*, that is, young or little wife. The friends who were at the signing the contract are invited to dinner on the marriage-day, and those most intimate and nearly related breakfast the morning after with the married couple, when

* Which our English ladies could not hear without a blush.

a pleasing

a pleasing examination of the parties is the topick of their conversation; this, however strange, would be more so, were I to tell you all that passes on such occasions.

A marriage contract is made so public, because the laws are such, that the wife's fortune is never to be diminished, and no creditor (in case the husband fails) can have any dividend, until the wife receives her full portion; and in case she should first die without children, one half of the dowry returns again to her family.

LETTER IX.

Viterbo, April 4, 1794.

I SETTLED with the driver to set out this morning at nine o'clock with my passport, in case no other should come by the post from Rome.

After we had supped, my servant came into the room, saying, that a gentleman was arrived, and desired to speak to me. I went out, and found him to be a person sent from
Rome,

Romè, on a message to the lady in my company; he put into my hand a paper directed to me, in which was inclosed an open letter to the governor of this city, ordering him to permit the Baroness — to pass to Rome. I carried the letter into our apartment, and gave it to the lady, first reading it to her, and saying that *she* could not possibly be the person mentioned; to which she replied, that the passport was intended for her only, though she begged still to retain the name of Janetta. I then called in the messenger, who said that he had been sent express from Rome from Madame —, who desired the lady to come forward as quick as possible, without injuring her health. He took a purse out of his pocket, which by order he was to deliver to her, saying, he was to return again the next day, and that he would be in waiting with a coach at the Porta del Popolo in Rome, to conduct her and baggage twelve miles farther, to a palace where Madame — was on a visit.

I then left the room, thinking the lady would have something in private to ask him, that might not be proper for me to hear. On

D

my

my return, I desired her newly-appointed servant to get something for his supper. The lady, being so much agitated with joy at the good news, requested me to give her some of the same medicine which she had before taken: “ I do not know (said she) whether I can best support excessive grief, or excessive joy; the latter being my present case, from the kind attention of my very good friends; and you, sir!”——Here I stopt her from proceeding any further: I then gave her the prepared opium, which very soon calmed her mind.

Not to lose time, I ordered in the bill, and found it very exorbitant, as our living had been but scanty. Fearing lest I should complain to other English travellers, the host made a proper abatement; for I shewed him on the table my book of memorandums, where I always entered the good or bad characters of the inns on my journey. While I was paying the landlord, the lady carried out my servant's great coat; for the use of which, and his ready attendance on her, she made him a present, and paid the driver her part according to agreement, and also for the days he had been detained in this city on her account.

It

It being nearly midnight, I advised her to go to rest, as the opium had begun to operate; and then calling her servant, I told him he ought not to quit us till we arrived next day at the inn, where the driver proposed to stop that night. The servant told me that if we employed two days in going to Rome, there was no probability of getting beds excepting at the next town, Ronciglione, sixteen miles from hence; and as he had his own horse, he would depart early the next morning, and secure lodgings, which was no easy matter to do, as the towns were so crowded with people of all ranks in order to be at Rome in the Holy-Week.

LETTER X.

Ronciglione, April 5, 1794.

We went this morning to the Governor of Viterbo with my passport, and the letter for him from Rome concerning the lady, which in fact was a positive passport. He behaved to us with great politeness, and offered his

service in any thing we might want. We then proceeded on our journey, and arriving here, found the servant at the door of the inn, who told us that he had been fortunate enough to secure a room, which would not, however, be vacant till the company then in it had dined: in the mean while he conducted us to a chamber, which was engaged for others not yet arrived.

To fill up the time, I proposed to the lady to see the town, but she preferred preparing her dress, which she intended to wear the next day; and I shall take this opportunity to fulfil my promise to you in my letter of the 4th instant, wherein I mentioned having received a present of some opium from a Turkish gentleman, with whom I had been intimately acquainted at Leghorn, to which city he had escaped from Constantinople for fear of punishment for a supposed crime of state; but being afterwards found innocent, he was recalled, and restored to all his former honours.

Being with him one morning he took a silver box out of his pocket with opium, of which he put into his mouth a small piece, about the fifth part of an ounce. Having so
good

good an opportunity to enquire into the properties of this wonderful drug, I begged him to acquaint me with the particular effect it would produce. He was a man of great talents, and scientific knowledge, and he gave me the following particulars:—

“ Very few Mahometans, from superstition
 “ or idleness, apply themselves to the science
 “ of physick, which however has not pre-
 “ vented me from that study for the benefit
 “ of my family and friends; and knowing
 “ that opium was of such general use in Asia,
 “ I made a particular study of the quality
 “ and effects of this extraordinary drug, not
 “ only as an internal medicine, but as an ex-
 “ ternal unction.

“ The use of opium is of very ancient date;
 “ the best was formerly made at Thebes un-
 “ der the inspection of magistrates, in order
 “ to prevent abuses by adulteration; which is
 “ not the case at present, as most people pre-
 “ pare it as they please, and sell it for what
 “ they can obtain.

“ It is well known to be often mixed,
 “ when making, with some other extract,
 “ in order to add to its weight; opium of this

“ quality is not to be depended on. It is also
 “ said, that after it is brought into Europe, it
 “ undergoes further adulteration; by these
 “ means, its activity is not only lessened, but
 “ it will produce a different effect.

“ It is understood by many, that opium
 “ acts only as a calmer of the nerves, or to
 “ produce rest, but I will quote to you a
 “ number of cases of its radically curing dis-
 “ orders of a most obstinate nature in both
 “ sexes. It is supposed by some, that when
 “ any person once begins to take this medi-
 “ cine it must be continued; which is a gross
 “ mistake, as I myself have used it in large
 “ quantities, and have afterwards omitted it
 “ for several years, or until a new call for its
 “ aid: I do not deny that in Turkey it is
 “ often taken as a luxury, by which some are
 “ induced to a perpetual habit of it. Others
 “ insist that it tends to shorten life; such as-
 “ sertion is also false, as I myself know a
 “ a number of instances of persons using it
 “ constantly, who have arrived at great lon-
 “ gevity with continued bodily strength.

“ A German traveller (through Turkey)
 “ in a late publication has absurdly declared
 “ that

“ that opium is inimical to population. He
 “ could not surely have been much acquainted
 “ with genteel families, or he would have
 “ known that opium is administered to fa-
 “ vourite wives if they should not prove preg-
 “ nant. Even in my own family, and those
 “ of my numerous relations, there are a great
 “ number of instances, where I have pre-
 “ scribed a preparation of opium in the like
 “ cases, which scarcely ever failed of the much
 “ wished-for effect. I will point out to you
 “ the method of treatment, and the quantity
 “ of the medicine necessary according to each
 “ female constitution for assisting population.
 “ In this case, opium ought to be esteemed as
 “ a divine drug.

“ I have no doubt of being soon recalled
 “ home, and then I will send you a quantity
 “ of some pure opium, which you will care-
 “ fully preserve in its active state, and pre-
 “ pare it in like manner as I have done for
 “ the above purpose, and for any of the fol-
 “ lowing maladies, in the cure of which I
 “ have happily succeeded*.”

* Violent rheumatisms, weak limbs, gout in most cases,
 head-achs, coughs attended with sore throats, obstinate fe-
 male

On his arrival in Turkey he sent me some opium by a Grecian gentleman, accompanied with the following letter:—

“ I beg to present you with a few pounds
 “ of the purest opium; and as you mean to
 “ use it in the cures of those disorders in
 “ which I have so often succeeded, and that
 “ you might not protract your good intention,
 “ I send this small parcel (which is all I could
 “ collect) from among my friends, as none
 “ of so pure a kind is ever made for sale,
 “ but for private use. Next season I shall
 “ send you a much larger quantity, and I
 “ shall keep you continually supplied with
 “ the same sort as is made for myself. I
 “ charged the bearer to tell you my present
 “ happy situation; in which, or in any other,
 “ I am your friend.”

Being thus in possession of the most pure opium, with liberal instructions for the quantity of that medicine and method of using

male complaints, consumptions (if not too deeply rooted), convulsions, disorders of the brain (even those approaching to insanity), severe paralytic seizures, almost every disorder of the nerves, debilitated constitutions, scorbutic eruptions on the face, neck, &c.

it

it in a variety of maladies, I immediately undertook to prescribe for several of my friends, among whom were a gentleman and two ladies who had been sent from England to Italy with debilitated constitutions, who are now happily relieved; the ladies, though of advanced ages, have recovered a charming bloom, and are seemingly grown younger. One of them (Mrs. C. F.) will soon return to England through Switzerland, and I shall recommend her to your good lady's attention.

In going through Italy a few years since, in my leisure hours, I went into many of the principal hospitals, (from motives of humanity) by advice of the Rev. Dr. Patten, whom I shall mention in a future letter. Among other inquiries, I found the use of opium was not very general, and in any case only a small quantity of it was prescribed, and that the external application was not practised. To those of the profession who desired it, I gave some extracts from my Turkish friend's information, and I shall pay them another visit in this journey.

You think I am become a doctor; I am not so at present, as I have in the course of
thi.

this tour once more to attend the physical lectures at the fundry universities I shall pass through, having in my last journey obtained certificates for that purpose. But even now, in respect to my favourite medicine, you may command my advice with as much freedom as I would on any occasion ask your law opinion.*

From the foregoing conversation with the Turkish gentleman, I made the following observation on the virtues of the Poppy, from which opium is extracted :

HAIL ! lovely flow'r, to thee I sing;
 Thou friend of peasant and of king !
 -I worship at thy shrine
 The God who did to thee impart
 The means to ease the head and heart,
 That faculty divine.

The old, the young, the rich, the poor,
 Will oft from thee receive a cure,
 While other drugs prove vain;
 The tortur'd limb, the aching head,
 Or victims that disease has made,
 Will happy ease obtain.

* My friend, to whom these letters were addressed, studied at Oxford; where he took the degree of Doctor of Laws : but had resided several years in the neighbourhood of Berne.

The Turkish youth well know the *pow'r*
 Of this most kind delightful flow'r,
 Their females know its *uses*;
 It tells the tears no more to flow,
 It bids the pallid cheek to glow,
 And sudden joy produces.

LETTER XI.

Rome, April 6, 1794.

YESTERDAY the gentleman and two ladies having left the chamber we had hired at Ronciglione, we took possession, and found it scarce big enough for the furniture it contained; two beds, a small table, and a few chairs. I complained to the ladies' servant of the closeness of the apartment, and on his replying, that there was no other to be had at the inn, I begged him to see if he could procure a room in a private house: on which Janetta said, "if you go to another lodging, " I desire to accompany you, as having so " great a charge with me, and it being the " last night of our journey, I hope now not " to be left alone." I answered, it was not on my account, but for her accommodation, that

that I wished to have another apartment :
 “ Then, sir, (said she) I beg we may remain where we are ;” on which I ordered our dinner to be brought.

Those who travel on this road in time of Lent, would do well to send a servant before, or a letter to some friend to engage lodgings.

While we were at dinner the landlord informed us that there was a lady in the town to exhibit her talents that evening in reciting, or rather singing, extempore verses on any subject the company should think proper to name.

This talent is a gift of nature peculiar to the Italians, and as the words of their language end in vowels, it is very easy to make rhimes. Janetta understood Italian pretty well, and we went in the evening to hear the performance; the recital was accompanied by a guittar, which served to assist her voice, and give time for recollection. Among other themes given to the lady, was the character of Marcus Brutus, and his reasons for killing Julius Cæsar in the Capitol, all of which she executed in a manner perfectly satisfactory to the audience.

We

We afterwards returned to our inn, and sat down to supper on a very fine fish which the landlord had caught himself; and paying the bill, which was moderate, we dismissed the servants with directions to prepare for our early departure the next morning for Rome,* and we went to rest.

We got into the carriage very early this morning, having sent forward Janetta's servant some hours before, whom we found punctually at the gate of the city with a coach, as he had yesterday promised; on which her baggage being fastened, we took leave of each other, and she drove off, first saying, that I should hear from her in a day or two, if I should stay so long in Rome.

* The plains between Ronciglione and Rome, the scenes where the Roman legions anciently exercised, and where the traveller met with Cæsar, Cicero, and Augustus, I scarcely now see any others than lazy pilgrims, and healthy mendicants.

LETTER XII.

Rome, April 7, 1794.

YOU must not expect me to give you the names of the inns on the road, which might be the means of misguiding when you come into Italy, as I found the characters of the landlords very different from what they were described in a travelling book that I carried with me; because, as the inns change masters so often, those which were named good, may probably be the contrary; and others, that have been called bad, may, *vice versa*, deserve a better character; so that in this you must in some measure be guided by a friend, or by the postillion.

It is not possible to give you an exact account of the expences of a family travelling in Italy; this must depend on themselves, and how they are in purse limited. Should you recommend any of your friends to me, you must let me know the manner in which they chuse to live in the different places they would like to stop at; and I will give them my opinion how to avoid general impositions
and

and to be æconomical without lessening their rank.

In every city in this country there is one or more theatres*, with four or five rows of boxes, each of which is hired for the season by families, where the ladies receive visitors and often give suppers, or make card-parties; and after the play or opera, the box is locked, so that it is more properly their own visiting-room for the time it is hired.

The theatres in Italy are not so well illuminated as those of London, and the people cannot distinguish each other from the opposite side; this perhaps has some *conveniences*, and those who wish not to be so highly dressed may come as they please. The principal singers only are attended to in the opera by the audience; the inferior actors being scarcely heard, by means of the buz in the various boxes.

The Carnival is a time of great festivity for all ranks of people. It begins soon after

* At Rome the performance at the theatre is by men only, no women being admitted on the stage; which is not the case in any other part of Italy out of the Roman State.

Christmas,

Christmas, and ends on Shrove-Tuesday. Its derivation is from the Bacchanalian feasts, which formerly were known to begin in January, and continue for two months; in which time the people with riots and feasting were rendered almost frantic, which is pretty well kept up in the present carnivals of Italy, by people parading through the streets in dominoes and various characters; and some days before the expiration of the carnival there are masked balls at the theatres, with a profusion of feasting and gaming in the boxes; not to mention an abundance of *innocent* intrigues carried on during this happy festivity.

LETTER XIII.

Rome, April 8, 1794.

BEING now on classic ground, and in the centre of the fine arts, I can scarcely forbear attempting to give you some account of them; but as these subjects have been ably treated by many learned men, I shall only speak of what gave me most pleasure.

Among

Among all the fine things in Rome none afforded me so much satisfaction as St. Peter's Church, the front of which is magnificent, standing over a vast portico, terminated by semicircular double rows of three hundred and twenty columns, supporting a balustrade, on which are one hundred and thirty-six statues, executed by a variety of masters.

About a hundred yards from the front of the church is an obelisk of one entire piece of granite, more than twenty tons weight,* one hundred and thirteen palms high, standing on a pedestal of thirty palms. This vast obelisk is placed on the rumps of four brazen lions; it was brought from Egypt by the Emperor Caligula.

* This prodigious column was hoisted on the pedestal by an extraordinary invention of a mean mechanic, as all the great professors were at a loss to effect it. While it was hoisting, pain of death was denounced against any person to speak; but a poor sailor seeing the ropes on the point of taking fire by the vast friction, called out for water, which had an happy effect. This man was not only pardoned for speaking, but received a pension during his life, which was intailed upon his family. The model of the machine which was used in hoisting this prodigiously heavy and tall column, is still kept in the back part of St. Peter's Church, with the models of other machinery used in building the cupola and church.

On each side of the obelisk are two large fountains, raising water to a very great height, which produce a cool effect on the whole circle.

This stupendous cathedral was founded by Constantine the Great, and finished by Pope Leo X. and Sextus Quintus; its roof stands on a hundred vast columns. The cupola was begun by Michael Angelo Buonaroti, and is supported by four prodigious columns, the measure round the base of each is seventy-six of my paces.

The great number of statues, the highly executed pictures in mosaic over each altar, with an innumerable quantity of rich ornaments in relievo, by the most eminent masters, give the building a very awful and celestial appearance; and if any edifice can stimulate the soul to devotion, it must be found in this temple.

Going out of this place of divine worship, on the left hand of the portico you ascend by a flight of very wide marble steps to the Pope's palace, or Vatican, which is so called from there having been formerly on that spot two temples of Mars and Apollo, where the
oracles

oracles were consulted. St. Peter's church and this palace stand in the Vatican Vale, where the gymnastic and other games were formerly exhibited.

In the afternoon I hired a boat, and went down the Tyber to Ostia, anciently one of the ports for part of the Roman fleet. Not far from thence was situated Pliny's villa, so finely described in his letters, but it is now entirely covered with trees, being at present part of an extensive wood, which in his time must have been overflowed by the sea, as he says the waves dashed against its walls. The ancient statues, which were once placed by him in that villa, have stimulated some gentlemen and artists to endeavour to find out that noble building, of which there are no vestiges to be seen above-ground; and they only calculate where it most likely stood by the distance from Ostia described by Pliny. Encouraged by the value of antiquities in it, they have cleared part of the ground on the supposed spot, in order to begin their excavations with the most sanguine hopes of success.

Being returned again to Rome, I went to a friend's house, in which was a genteel *conversation*, and where much polite company

were assembled; but they were somewhat alarmed by the sudden fainting of a lady, as if going to expire. She was carried into another room, and by proper assistance was recovered so as to be able to explain that the accident was occasioned by the scent of some natural flowers in the room; which was found to be the case, as one of the gentlemen had a few lillies in his bosom, not knowing the bad effects such flowers would produce in a close apartment. On enquiring, I found that all odoriferous flowers are very obnoxious in confined rooms, where they have sometimes been attended with fatal consequences, and very often occasion hystericks and convulsions; and some pregnant ladies have been known to miscarry by those smells before the true cause was discovered; since which accidents, all natural flowers have been prohibited from being worn in rooms of public resort. Such effects produced by flowers are more particularly local in Rome. I afterwards asked some of the faculty the reason of those strange effects, but could get no physical satisfaction, they only saying, that the air of Rome would not admit of such foetid smells.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

Rome, April 12, 1796. 4

I THIS morning was favoured with a call from my late companion Janetta, who came with a message from Madame ——, who was gone to Frascati on a visit to Cardinal York,* requesting that I would spend a few days there, which I did not accept, having some particular reasons for denying myself that pleasure.

The few days I continued at Rome waiting for my passport from Naples, I employed partly in examining its commerce and manufactures: among the latter they have made no small progress in the articles of cloth and bath-coatings. Their finest wool is nearly equal to that of Spain, and their oil is cheap and good, so that they want industry only, with a few instructions, to bring woollen manufactures to high perfection, and at mo-

* Frascati is twelve miles from Rome, where the cardinal had established a seminary for youth, who may be inclined to take priests' orders.

derate prices. These works are at the expence of the Papal State; the directors of which knowing that I was no stranger to the woollen manufactures in England, treated me with much kindness and civility; requesting I would let them know the remedy for such faults and defects as I had pointed out, which I did not think it prudent to do, though highly flattered by them on the occasion.

I spent several evenings at some of the principal *conversations*, in which the company were exceedingly polite; and if ever you bring your family to Rome, I would advise you to those amusements, where the Italian is delightfully spoken (particularly by the ladies) with a peculiar and pleasing tone of voice. They have a proverb, "*Lingua Toscana in bocca Romana*,"* to shew that the Italian language, though more pure in Tuscany, is best articulated in Rome.

* Tuscan tongue in a Roman mouth.

LETTER XV.

Rome, April 13, 1794.

YESTERDAY morning I paid a visit to a Roman lady, who understood English perfectly well, and was acquainted with our best authors. I waited a few minutes before I was introduced into her room, and she apologized for my not being admitted till she had put on her shift. As I suppose you shew my letters to your good wife, she must not be offended at being informed that it is not uncommon for ladies, even in health or sickness, to receive visitors when in bed;* and the greatest number of the inhabitants in this part of the continent sleep without body-linen, except in the coldest months. I asked the lady the conveniences that were peculiar to this custom; she said that in the heat of the season it certainly kept them cool, and

* The treatment of lying-in women is so different from the custom of England, before and after birth, that they are enabled in the depth of winter, even the day after delivery, to receive visitors in their bed-room, where there is no chimney, though warm and comfortable; yet the north-east winds are as piercingly cold here as in England.

the

the little plaguing animals, the fleas, were more easily detected and destroyed when covered by a sheet only.

In one of the conversations I met with the son of a gentleman, a particular friend of mine, whom I formerly knew at Dantzic. He came the next morning to see me, and as he was going to Naples, I proposed travelling with him: but he could not undertake the journey, as he was very ill of a certain disorder, and in the hands of an unskilful person. Out of respect for his family, from whom I had received so many civilities, I carried him to one of the faculty of my acquaintance, and as I had some interest with him, I strongly recommended the young man to his care; but he told me it was uncertain what would be the event of his distemper, especially as the weather was beginning to be warm; and in this climate a cure is most commonly attended with great difficulty. If our young men from more northern climates use caution in getting through Italy, they may meet with a pleasing fund of entertainment without endangering their constitutions.

ROME.

ROME.

I have been four times at Rome, and during my abode I scarce passed a day without visiting St. Peter's Church; for it is the finest of all buildings in the world; and there is no language has sublimity enough to speak worthily of it.

This temple is one of the most extensive ever known. It covers the vast Circus of Nero, upon which it is founded. Nothing strikes the soul so forcibly as when for the first time we enter into this divine edifice, on such an extensive pavement, amidst enormous pillars, surrounded with paintings, statues, mausoleums executed by the first masters, with a profusion of ornaments over and around each altar, of gold, porphyry, granite, and every thing that is precious; so that it is in reality a master-piece of art.

Some pretend to find fault with part of this edifice. I saw none, and I wish not to hear of any; for whenever I was there, I called on God, and thought of eternity, as it is impossible to have common thoughts in an edifice so divinely formed.

On

On leaving a temple purposely built for the adoration of the true and only God, I went once more to view the amazing Pantheon, consecrated by Agrippa to the worship of all the heathen gods; but since that period, it has been dedicated to all the Saints by a judicious Pope, in order to preserve it from superstitious rapine; which has had the desired effect, as it is in high preservation, more so than any ancient temple in or about Rome.

It has lost all in the inside that made it rich, but there is left all that which made it grand. The front of this immortal monument stands on eight vast Corinthian columns of porphyry, harmoniously proportioned and beautifully adorned. The whole Grecian art seemed to have been consulted in forming this structure with wisdom, strength, and beauty.

In going into the temple the Pantheon is no more: the gods are not there. Instead of Venus is the picture of the Virgin Mary; Jesus upon a cross supplies the place of Jupiter with his thunderbolts.

The

The design of the Pantheon is simple and grand; its circular form has an happy effect, with a vast dome majestically rising over it. We must pardon Time for insensibly taking away from the columns something of their surface, but we cannot pardon those who have whitened the inside of so noble and ancient an edifice. To whiten an ancient edifice is worse than to blacken a modern one. The Pantheon which astonished the ancient Romans, did not astonish Michael Angelo. They wondered that the earth should sustain such a vast cupola; "I will (said he) place another in the clouds;" he did so, by erecting the cloud-capt cupola over the amazing temple of St. Peter.

The genius of Michael Angelo said those things, and his hand executed them.

MODERN ROMANS.

To speak of a people, it is necessary to look at their civil and religious government. As soon as a Pope is chosen by the Cardinals, the disappointed electors wish the death of the elected; each hoping at such an event to have

have a chance for succession. The character of the present Pope is well known to be mild and pacific; this cannot be said of the body of Cardinals, who are haughty to the people, cruel in administering justice, and those of them who are capable, stick at nothing for their pleasures.

Rome is supposed to contain nearly two hundred thousand inhabitants; of those forty thousand have taken vows of celibacy, including friars, nuns, and priests. Of the latter, the greater part are ordained from the lower class of people, without any patrimony, and have nothing honestly to subsist on but their daily mass, for which they are paid only one paul per day, about five-pence sterling. Those among them, who have a capacity, and are industrious, are sometimes employed at a small price as copiers for the lawyers: a few of them, who are favourites to the great, are masters of public schools; but we may count that there are five or six thousand of them, who ostensibly have no more than their five-pence per day; it is no wonder, therefore, from wretchedness and hunger, that many of them are employed for the most vile and debauched purposes.

The

The convents for friars were formerly established for those inclined to separate from the world for the purpose of enjoying retirement in exercises of piety and learning. It is far otherwise now: they enter into convents with a disposition of laziness, and they soon forget their vows of chastity. I could say even worse of many of them, as they daily go to the altar, and in the mass receive the sacrament with abandoned principles. All this is well known, not only in Rome, but in convents all over Italy.

The famous novelist Boccacio has fully set forth those facts; and, instead of preventing such vast numbers from taking the vows of chastity, the Popes have threatened with excommunication all those who should read that author. This has not had its effect, as every one who can read has that publication in his possession. All the evils arising from the cruel and unnatural constraint to the vows of celibacy, have been long ago known to the ecclesiastical government, and no councils have ever met to resolve on the abolition of celibacy with respect to the clergy.

The

The second time that I was at Rome, in the same lodging was a Spanish young gentleman, who had hired a priest for *cicerone* to explain to him the antiquities. I walked with him one morning to see a famous picture of a Virgin by Titian, in the church of a convent for nuns. The *cicerone* desired us to amuse ourselves for a few minutes while he said mass; indeed he had finished before we had fully viewed the picture. He conducted us to the grate of the convent, where he desired the portress to call a nun, with whom he was acquainted: he asked the Spaniard how he liked her; "Very well," (said he,) for she was really a sprightly young woman: 'then you shall have her,' said the priest; and the nun seemed pleased. On leaving the convent, we finished our morning walk, and at four o'clock sat down to dinner, and we did not go out again, it being bad weather. At ten o'clock at night the *cicerone* entered the room with the nun we had before seen, dressed in a black suit of clothes like a priest. The *cicerone* was running on in praise of the abilities of this young woman, and she drew a chair and placed herself by the

the Spaniard. He seemed as much astonished as I was. He looked at me, at the priest, and at the nun! I saw his various passions and resentment rising; and quitting his chair, he took me to a distant part of the room, and asked my advice what he was to do: "I cannot (says he) but burn at the infamy of this fellow, who in the morning could receive the sacrament with a full intent to act as a procurer to one who had taken the vows of chastity." I answered him that he alone best knew how to act; he put his hand in his pocket, and took out a couple of sequins, and gave them to the nun, saying, that he had no occasion that night for a woman. She first refused the money, saying it was not for that alone, but to spend some hours with him that had made her run the risque of coming to his apartment. Curiosity led me to ask her how nuns could get out of the convent: 'By this means,' said she, producing a key, a privilege not to her alone, but to any of the sisterhood who were inclined to amuse themselves. I asked her if her having a key was with the consent of the abbess; she said no, but believed that she was

no

no stranger to their amours. I was going to ask her how they acted in case any of them should prove pregnant, but the Spaniard prevented me, as he had already begun to be in a rage with the priest. He therefore desired she would return to her convent, with which reluctantly complying, the priest conducted her away. The next morning the cicerone as usual came, and the Spaniard reproaching him for his vile conduct, paid him for the days he had been employed, and dismissed him. The priest said something in excuse for what he had done, as he must do such things or starve.

The vast number of spies that are employed by the Papal government, every morning carry their intelligence to a certain office, so that all these debaucheries, committed by those who have taken the vows of chastity, must often have been conveyed to the ears of the Sovereign Pontiff; and I hope the day is not far off, when the taking such vows, so derogatory to common sense, and against the laws of nature, will be prevented.

CHARACTERS

CHARACTERS OF THE LAITY.

The lower class of the people in all countries, particularly at Rome, form the greatest number; among these, frequent murders are committed from jealousy and other causes; which are suddenly perpetrated, as in Rome the women as well as the men carry a stiletto. As soon as the murder is committed, the assassin flies to a church, or to the house of some nobleman or cardinal; these asylums in Rome are not less than seven hundred. If the wounded person does not suddenly die, priests persuade him to forgive the murderer, which is sufficient for him to be also forgiven. If the wounded immediately dies without expressing a forgiveness, the atrocious offender must stay a few days longer in the asylum, till the affair is made up with the relations of the deceased, and then he is set at liberty. Leopold, Grand Duke of Tuscany, was the only Prince in Italy who prohibited church asylums for protection of murderers.

The second class of the Romans (I mean all below the rank of nobility) were half a century ago the most jealous people in Europe.

F

Husbands

Husbands as well as wives were often found dead in their beds, by that diabolical water made at Perugia. It is not so now, as the husband and wife are perfectly agreed in their conduct after marriage; the husband is *cicisbeo* to another man's wife, and his own spouse is attended by another husband.

In conversing with the lady Signora Faustina (whom I mentioned in my letter of the 13th of April) on the topic of this custom, she said, that few or no murders had been committed in Rome since the commencement of *cicisbeism*; and although it was not licensed by any ceremony of the church, yet it was well known to the Holy Father, who never took any steps to prevent it; so that, in fact, the *cicisbeo* was neither more nor less than a second husband, and a firm friend to the house. "How is it possible, (said I) "madam, for the husband to know his own "children?" "It is enough (said she) that 'he knows they are the children of his wife.' And this agreement is so well fixed and understood, that the husband never comes into his wife's apartment after he has quitted her bed in the morning, till he goes there again
at

at night; the wife never intrudes herself into the private room or study of her husband, though she is sure that another woman is with him. ' I think (said she) that this custom is infinitely more natural than that in the Eastern empire, where a man has licence to keep as many wives as he can maintain; but any one of these women would be punished with death, if she should be unfaithful to her despotic lord. I do not know any law of God that allows to the husband such superior privileges; if there be no such divine law, the law of nature will say that a woman ought to have as many husbands as the men have wives.' This was an argument I could not take on me to contradict or disapprove.

I then enquired of this lady, if the same custom was settled between the husbands and wives of the first rank of people, the Princes, Dukes, &c. She told me it was in a great degree, but that those ladies who did not approve of it had worse principles; as it was notorious they did not scruple to send cards of invitation to such men as they had taken a fancy to. The husbands of such ladies, in

revenge, acted a similar part, by bringing into their houses such women as they thought proper; so that the palaces of such princes were mere brothels. 'Our custom of *cicisbeism* (says she) is stamped with no shame, as it is an agreement among all parties; and the attachment of the *cicisbeos* to the wives of others is seldom broken but by death.'

The Roman ladies of the middle class are sprightly, and most of them have a tolerable education, with a handsome person and agreeable tone of voice; their shoulders and bosoms are particularly well formed; this they know, and do not fail to shew them, let the fashion of the dress be what it will.

Signora Faustina is thirty years old, and has had fourteen children; I was surprised at her informing me of this circumstance, as she appeared to be very young.

The ladies in Rome, and indeed in most parts of Italy, have nothing to do with the management of the house; the husband makes an agreement with the cook for the table of the whole family, excepting wine and oil, which are generally brought from their own estates. The servant men are all on board-wages,

wages, and few families give more than forty shillings per month, for which they maintain themselves in every thing, and they do not lie in the house.

In taking leave of Signora Faustina, she begged permission to trouble me with a parcel for her friend at Naples, to whom she had introduced me by a letter on my last journey to that city. It contained four cream-cheeses, which are most exquisitely made in Rome, more so than any I ever tasted in England; and although cultivation is so much neglected in the *campagna* of Rome, provisions of all kinds are much cheaper in that city than in any part of Italy.

INQUISITION.

This in Rome is called the Holy-Office, from which no prisoner ever returns, except those for very small offences against the church. The trials, tortures, and executions are not publicly known. The officers who are employed in this diabolical tribunal are not only sworn to secrecy, but if any thing should be discovered by them, they would suffer the same fate as the worst offenders. In passing by the gate of this horrid mansion,

it brought to my memory a disagreeable accident that happened to me more than thirty years ago at Madrid.

On a post-day, when sitting at a table with my papers of business before me, and writing letters for England, a man came into my room without ceremony, having an attendant behind him with a black bag, into which he swept all my papers, even the letters that I had been writing. I had no power of resistance, by the sudden shock this visitor gave me; as by his dress I knew him to be one of the inquisitors. Having secured my papers, he retired with the same gravity as when he entered, without speaking a word. Immediately after the landlord came into my room, and begged me for God's sake to quit his house and Madrid without losing a moment, for the seizing my papers was a prelude to the seizing my person for something I had done against the laws of that office. I told him to procure me the means to follow his advice, while I went to the British ambassador, who unfortunately was gone into the country for a few days. I revealed what had happened to his under-secretary, who
advised

advised me to leave Madrid immediately; on which I hurried home to my lodgings, and while packing up my things, the servant of my banker entered the room with a note from his mistress to attend her that evening at a concert. I told the servant the embarrassment I was under, and that I should in the space of an hour leave Madrid. The landlord then informed me that a chaise was ready at the end of the street, and on desiring him to call my servant, I found he had quitted me, even without staying for his wages. I paid the landlord his bill, and told him to send up some person to take down my baggage; then sitting down at a writing-table, and loading a brace of pistols, I resolved to stay and take my fate, as I might be seized on in flying from the city, which perhaps might imply guilt. The landlord soon after entering, with a porter to carry my things down to the chaise, I told him my resolution of staying, as I had not the least recollection of having done or said any thing against the state or the holy office. The poor man, for his own and my sake, requested me not to stay in his house, otherwise it might be fatal;

as

as he had that minute received an order to let no person speak to me. While he was uttering these words, his waiter brought him a note, which contained an order not to suffer me to quit my room. It was now two o'clock in the afternoon, and being perfectly convinced of not having done any thing that could merit the treatment I had suffered, I desired the landlord to send up my dinner; to which I sat down, but with no great appetite, though I ate enough to satisfy hunger.

After dinner I wrote the state of the case for the ambassador, assuring him of my innocence, and claiming his protection. I inclosed it in a letter to his secretary, desiring him to forward it as directed without loss of time. On requesting the landlord to send the letter, the honest man wept, and said it was not in his power. A coach stopping at the door, he in a fright looked out at the window, but was glad to find it was a gentleman's carriage; on which he went down to the door, and discovered it was my banker and his lady, who had called to see me. On the landlord telling them his orders respecting me, they reluctantly retired; and looking out
at

at the window, I saw the lady making signs of sorrow.

I then desired the landlord to leave me, and taking a book, and beguiling time till midnight, I lay down on the bed in my cloaths, expecting every minute to be called for by some infernal officer. In that situation I lay till day-light, when my friend the landlord, who had not slept all night, brought me some chocolate, and said he was glad that I had taken some repose; for he had come into my chamber a few hours before, and had found me asleep. He put the chocolate on the table on which were the pistols, and I sat down; after drinking it, I began to write a letter to my banker, a most worthy man, to whom and to his wife I was under great obligations. I had not written many lines, when the same black devil who had taken my papers the day before entered the room. Starting up, I seized one of the pistols, but whether to aim it at him or myself I did not know; I was, however, prevented from doing either, by the entrance of a fellow with the black bag, who approaching the table, and pouring out again my papers, they both retired.

My worthy landlord now ran into the room, and embracing me as if I had been his brother, cried out with tears of joy, that it was a mistake; the fact was, that the blundering messenger of the hellish office had mistaken my room for an adjoining one, which had been occupied by a German traveller, against whom some information had been made to the Inquisition, and he, knowing what had happened to me, had left the city.

By the landlord's persuasion I undressed myself and went to bed, and falling into a sleep, did not awake till six in the evening, when I found my servant in the room, whom I easily forgave, as he had quitted me for fear of being also involved in my fate. I then dressed myself and went to my banker's house, where I found my excellent friend his wife in tribulation concerning me, she having refused to go to the concert, being too much interested for my safety. Sometime afterwards her husband joined us, and heartily congratulated me on my release. We spent the evening most agreeably together, and they obligingly sent me home in their carriage.

RELIGION IN ROME.

It was once the Roman-Catholic religion in all its purity, it is not so now; the generality of the people go on Sundays and holidays to hear mass in Latin, of which they do not understand one word; and there are many of the common priests say mass without knowing the Latin tongue.

By degrees superstition crept in, and the generality of the common people having since passed that boundary, are become Idolaters; and every now and then a miracle is invented to divert the populace. The middle class of people keep up the appearance of religion for fear of the Inquisition; so that in reality the religion is lost, but not its trappings. Those of that persuasion in England are so from conviction, being guided by morality and conscience. The Romans are so from custom, and through fear of falling under the lash of the Holy Office. The fault is not so much in them as it is in the Ecclesiastical government; and if ever episcopacy should be separated from the civil power, it will be the fault

fault of the Pontiffs themselves, for not keeping in order those under their charge, and preventing an evil which has been creeping on these several centuries.

LETTER XVI.

Vilatri, April 14, 1796.*

THE manners and customs of this country are so very different from those of ours, that I shall continue to mention them as they occur, for I shall have many leisure hours in my road to Naples.

The mode of travelling in this country is either by post, or *vettura*; by the latter, the horses are hired for the whole road you want to go; the *vetturino*, or driver, undertakes to perform the journey in a certain number of days, and he will maintain you on the road, or you may do it yourself; the latter is preferable, though it may cost a trifle more.

By going *vettura*, the insolence and impositions of Italian postillions are avoided,

* This was once one of the most flourishing cities of the Volsci.

and

and you have more leisure and a better opportunity of making your observations.

After settling with the vetturino this morning, I left Rome, and arrived here to dinner. The city of Rome being one hundred and fifty miles from Naples, the driver engaged to conduct me thither in five days, for which I was to give him six pounds sterling, and, if I chose to stop on the road, to give him seven shillings for every extra day; for all this, according to custom, he gave me his obligation in writing. He has an excellent pair of horses, but I have my own carriage, and the privilege of taking with me one person besides myself and servant.

A few miles from Rome are many arches remaining of a very ancient aqueduct; and although by their present appearance they must have been once magnificent, yet could by no means be compared to the aqueduct which conveys the water to Lisbon, whose source is about thirteen miles from that city, the water of which is conducted through high mountains and over deep vallies. At Alcantara, nearly two miles from Lisbon, the valley

ley is so deep that an arch was obliged to be built over it of such an height that it could admit a man of war compleatly masted to float under it. I went there some years since with a few others to determine a considerable wager laid by two of the company, one of whom was to throw a stone from the base to the top of the pediment of the arch, which wager was lost. I mention this to give you an idea of the aqueduct that the arch was to support, the height of which is described in one of our magazines, and it is so wonderful, that I often went to view it with admiration. It ought to stand in high reputation among the wonders of the world, and its utility and magnificence do the greatest honour to the King of Portugal, who ordered it to be constructed.

Taking a walk this afternoon, I heard the clock of the great church strike the hour twice within five minutes of each other; I thought that such a repetition was only peculiar to Tuscany, but I find it is very general throughout Italy. I remark this as very useful to those who have it not in their power to wear watches. I was also pleased by seeing
a clock

a clock in the great square of Siena pointing the day of the month; and the clock of the old palace at Florence is illuminated at night, so that the hour can be seen as well as by day. The conveniences of these little attentions for the use of society must be pleasing to such a susceptible mind as I know yours to be.

LETTER XVII.

Vilatri, April 14, 1794.

AS the postillion would not go any further to-day, I took a walk into the country after dinner with an apothecary* of this place, and having gone three miles, we stopt at a small shepherd's cot. Such habitations are open on the ground-floor for the implements of husbandry, &c.; over it is a single room, to which ascending by stone steps on the outside of the house, the apothecary called at the door, and

* Apothecaries in country towns are no more than small chemists or druggists, and are forbidden to prescribe to the sick.

found

found that the family were gone to rest, as the sun was near setting; but the shepherd knowing his voice, clapt on his shirt, and opened the door. On the floor were lying his wife, two daughters, and a son, all naked, on a large canvas sacking stuffed with the leaves of Indian corn, and covered only with one large coarse sheet. Another son had the care of the sheep till it was time for his brother to take the charge.

The daughters were employed a few days in the summer in gathering aromatick herbs, with which the mother supplied the apothecary for distillation; and in the spring they collect snails* and frogs, which are carried by the mother to market, and from their produce they now and then are able to procure some ordinary oil and wine, and other little necessaries.

Their general meals, in these inland parts of the country, consist of nothing more than boiled chesnuts, and on Sundays perhaps a little brown or rather black bread, and pro-

* I have eaten once of these, and when well cleaned, and with proper sauce, they are less disagreeable in taste than in idea.

bably from some good friend they receive a present at Christmas or Easter of a few pounds of meat; for they are in such terror of the landlords, that they are scarce ever known to destroy for their own use a hare, or any other field animal. The flock of sheep which was committed to the charge of this man did not exceed forty in number; the wretchedness of his family,* and their method of living, are very different from those shepherds described by Virgil, in whose days they must have lived in a state of felicity. The shepherd's two sons had charge of the sheep, while he occupied himself in husbandry, when he could find employment, which was not often the case. At other times he collected chestnuts for the family, and fire-wood for dressing them, for which he was obliged to go many miles, as the spot he lived on was rocky and not cultivated, and only here and there herbage could be found for the sheep.

On our walk back to the town, my companion told me that, three weeks since, the

* This family was in health, but I have known many, more distant from cities, in a greater degree of misery from poverty and sickness.

mother went on foot to Rome (the husband consenting) with their eldest daughter twelve years' old, and disposed of her offspring's virtue, which was also to be the case with the next daughter on the following year; for which, though they obtained but a very small sum, it helped to buy ordinary Sunday clothes for the family. My companion, seeing me surprised at what I had heard, told me that it was not uncommon for parents thus to hire out their children, and that it was no objection in case they were so lucky as to meet with an offer of marriage with one of their own class. "There are old female wretches" (he said) in Rome, who undertake to "manage such business, and the mother attends to make the bargain, and to see that her daughter does not bring away a certain disorder, which latter seems to be their chief care; for should it otherwise happen, the girls might perhaps be prevented from matrimony." As soon as this infamous ceremony was over, the mother purchased the small trifles which the husband had ordered, and returned again with the victim.

By

By what I could learn from this gentleman, it was not to be understood that this inhuman action was repeated; for were the girls again offered for sale, they would be rejected, unless very handsome, which is seldom the case among those miserable beings. Besides, they are in a manner brought up in a savage state, not one in a hundred of them being taught either to read or write; and all that their religion consists in, is to go to some distant church on Sundays and holidays, to hear a mass in Latin, of which they do not understand one word.

The apothecary told me that such parents have no kind of remorse for thus disposing of their daughters, which I suppose is produced by poverty, want of education, or good instruction; for though there are curates in every village, they think, by the small sum which is paid them, that they are not obliged to do any thing more than the mere duty of saying mass, and hearing confessions; in which they ought and I hope do give such advice as the persons on their knees before them have abilities of retaining.

Being again returned to the inn, the apothecary supped with me, and I took my leave of him. One of the dishes was composed of young pumpkins about the size and shape of a cucumber cut in quarters, some fried in good oil, others stewed, of which large quantities are eaten in this country in the spring, as being very cooling and wholesome; we had also some fresh-water crabs stewed in a manner which made a very excellent dish, and in Rome is a costly and great delicacy; the shell is like a jelly when stewed, and is eaten with the fish. They have also in Italy the land-turtle, which is likewise much esteemed, and is very nutritious for weak people, but as they are amphibious, I did not relish them.

LETTER XVIII.

Vilatri, (midnight) April 14, 1794.

THE postillion informing me that we ought to set out in two hours, I had no inclination to go to bed, as the room that was appointed for me contained also a bed for another

another person whom I did not know; the inn being very full, owing to the same cause as in my letter from Viterbo the 4th instant, I could not get a separate room; so I shall save that expence, and trouble you with more of my cursory remarks; which although not immediately local, I will set down as they occur to my memory.

In Tuscany there are but two courts of judicature, one for civil causes, the other for trial of criminals; in the former the proceedings are carried on by written process. In Leghorn the discontented party can appeal to the court of Pisa, and if confirmed there it can be carried no further; but if it differ from the former, it must be ultimately determined at Florence.

The judge in the criminal courts passes sentence on the offender, and there is no appeal from it but to the Prince; and since the punishment of death was changed by the late Grand Duke Peter Leopold into that of the galley, less crimes are committed than before. Some years since, Captain Roseter, of Ireland, who had a commission in a Tuscan regiment at Leghorn, having been found

G 3

guilty

guilty of wilful murder*, was brought on the parade before the regiment chained to a galley-flave, where, seated on a drum, his hair was cut off, and his regimentals being stript from him, and cut to pieces, the yellow† flaves' dress was put on him, and he was thus sent to the gallies for life. The officers of the regiment petitioned the Prince at Roseter's request for a reverse of the sentence to that of death, as it would disgrace their uniform; which he refused, saying, " I have
 " a like regimental coat, and the sentence
 " will first disgrace me who made the law,
 " so I am determined to abide by it."

LETTER XIX.

THE postillion sleeping longer than he had promised, in order to keep myself awake, I again take up my pen.

* On the woman who procured his commission.

† Those who are sent to the gallies for murder have a yellow jacket, and heavier chains; those for other crimes have a red jacket.

There

There is a law in Tuscany, which seems in some measure to carry equity with it. If a father dies, and leaves his children unprovided for, any of the sons who have means must take charge of the other children, and though disagreeable, the latter have a right to enter into and live in the house of the former, unless other apartments are provided, and a maintenance fixed agreeable to them; but as soon as any of those marry, this obligation ceases on the part of that brother who before maintained them.

Leopold abolished a great many convents of friars, and also some nunneries,* ordering that no woman should take the veil till she was compleat twenty-five years of age, and the convent even then could receive none without a special order; by which means the

* Leopold first gave an order to every nun in Tuscany to write her cause for taking the veil, and the method of treatment in the convent; ordering each to tell freely their sentiments without any restraint of their superiors, and to seal them up; all which were sent to him, about twelve thousand, and he had the patience to open and read every one of them. He gave leave to a great many to leave the convent; and commanded that such as were with child should be married to those by whom they were pregnant, provided they were the men on whom the nuns had placed their affections prior to their taking the veil.

number of votaries being reduced, one convent became the receptacle of several others, and the increase of population hence is evident all over Tuscany. It is, however, much to be wished that the following circumstance had fallen under his observation:—

For the benefit of society, and to prevent unnatural crimes, Pope Pius IVth permitted common prostitutes to remain in Rome, but they were constrained to live in streets destined for them. The like custom is adopted at Leghorn, and each young woman pays a monthly tax to the state for such permission, and a surgeon is appointed to look after their health; but when any of these poor creatures die, their bodies are covered with a piece of matting, and carried on a kind of ladder by two porters outside the city walls, to a place appointed for the reception of the carcases of dogs and horses, and there a very shallow pit is scratched up, into which the dead female is thrown naked. It surely is very absurd that such women should, when alive, be thought absolutely necessary to the good order of the state, and when dead be refused christian burial with their fellow-citizens.

As

As I have explained to you the custom in Italy of ladies having their cicisbeos with the full consent of their husbands, I cannot but be surpris'd at the great difference of manners in this respect at Tunis, which is but a short passage from this continent, whose inhabitants come often to Leghorn to trade; but though they see this custom, they do not carry it back to their own country; where a man is allowed three or four, or even more wives, if he can maintain them.

The houses of the city of Tunis are built with an open quadrangle in the centre, by which they are accommodated with air and light; but there are no windows facing the streets, for fear of their females being seen, and no other men but the husbands ever enter into the apartments where the wives live. Thus, by such wretched confinement, and voluntary obedience to their husband, he has seldom any cause to complain of their infidelity; he, however, lords it over them with a high hand—he eats alone, and they take among them what is left on the table, and as often as he enters the house, they kiss his
hand,

hand, or make some other vile tokens of submission.

Tunis is about eight miles from the supposed scite of old Carthage, of which there are few other vestiges left, except thirteen immensely large cisterns for holding water, which was conveyed into them by a canal supported in the vallies by magnificent arches, which brought the water forty miles from its source.

If we confront that once wonderful city with the uncouth structures of its neighbour the present Tunis, comparing its inhabitants with those of the renowned Carthage; and if we take a view of the various ranks of inhabitants in some of the most superb cities in Europe, and compare those in great affluence with the miserable situation of millions of the lower class, many of whom daily expire through sickness and hunger; we cannot avoid serious reflection, and say with the ancient sage, "*Nosce teipsum:*"

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan,

"The proper study of mankind is man."

Shower down, oh gracious Heaven! abundance of riches on those who best deserve them;

them; but bestow on me, thy unworthy servant, the great blessing of health, and a small competency, with which I may be able to fulfil the duties enjoined by thy precepts, and at the close of this mortal journey, cheerfully to bless God and die.

You will think that I am grown serious; to which I answer, it is a serious hour; and as the postillion is at length come to tell me the carriage is ready, I wish you well.

LETTER XX.

Terracina, or Ancient Anxur,*
15th April 1794.

THIS day I travelled more than forty miles through the Pontine Marshes, which were almost in a state of nature, till the late Pope Ganganelli began to cut drains, in which he had made great progress before his untimely death. The present Pope Pius VI. has nearly completed the work, and the pro-

* The last town in the Roman State.

duce of the meadows and arable lands after draining will abundantly pay all the expenses. What these marshes were in remote times I could not learn, but surely the ancient Roman republic must have been very neglectful of agriculture, if they had left so many thousands of acres uncultivated, and in a state of putrefaction; and even now, though a canal more than eighty feet broad runs through a great part of the marshes, the air is so bad as to make it unsafe to travel that road after the hot season begins, without the precaution of using vinegar and fumigations. The inn here is shut up during the hot months, and opened again as soon as the rains commence.

On a former journey I arrived here in the month of September, the same day on which the landlord had returned from his summer residence, and not knowing that he had neglected fumigating the rooms, I lay there, and caught a disorder from the contagious air, which did not break out till a week after my arrival at Naples; and after remaining there more than two months, in a deplorable state, with utter aversion to all food, I was
carried

carried on board an English ship bound for Leghorn. On the voyage I was humanely treated by Capt. Muckle of Bristol, and was four months longer confined to my room at Leghorn. I speak of my sickness as a caution to those who travel that road in the hot months.

As I am going to take a walk on the seashore with my gun, I conclude.

LETTER XXI.

April 16th, 1794.

BEFORE I had quitted the door of the inn last evening, the Roman lady whom I spoke of in my letter of the 13th instant was passing by in her coach, and seeing me, she immediately ordered it to be stopt, intreating me to go with her to her country villa, about two miles from hence, and spend the evening, saying that the weather was too hot to hazard my staying at Terracina with safety. Recollecting what I had suffered in a former journey, I readily accepted her kind offer, and
part

part of the baggage being removed from my carriage to hers, we drove off. She had with her a married sister, and a gentleman her own *cicisbeo*; and as her sister's friend, or *ganzo*, could not join them for a few days, she requested me to supply his place.

You will naturally enquire for the husbands of these two ladies—they are or will be with their female friends, enjoying the sweets of the country at some other place; for if you please to refer to what I have before said on this subject, you will find that it is quite rustic and unfashionable for married ladies to be seen abroad with their husbands. I would not have you infer that this custom is always stamped with criminality; on the contrary, some gentlemen and ladies *pretend* to say that such friendships do not exceed the bounds of Platonic love.

We arrived in a little time at the lady's country-seat among the mountains, the Mediterranean sea being full in view. The house is large, elegantly furnished, and contained to my surprize a library of choice books.

At eight o'clock we sat down to a meagre supper. One of the dishes was composed of
fried

fried artichokes cut in quarters, which is reckoned as great a delicacy in this country as early green pease in England; but they are only made use of in this manner when about the size of a pigeon's egg; in that state the outer leaves being equally tender as their bottoms, they thus make a most palatable dish.

These ladies, besides being agreeable in conversation, would be reckoned handsome even in England; and I must remark, that the English who travel on this continent are apt to converse chiefly with those they meet of their own country, and by that means lose great part of that useful information which they might otherwise acquire by mingling with the natives, many of whom I have found to be intelligent and polite.

LETTER XXII.

From the Villa among the Mountains,
17th April, 1796.

GETTING up very early this morning, and being alone, I now trouble you with a few lines before breakfast. In most parts of
Italy,

Italy, both sexes are called by their christian and not by their surnames. The lady of the house is called Signora Faustina, and her sister Signora Carolina, the daughters of a late learned man high in office under Pope Ganganelli. Their father gave them a good education, which is very rare among the Italian ladies, who are often obliged (through not being able to write) to trust their most particular secrets to the pen of a favourite footman. Signora Faustina's gentleman is a Roman advocate of distinguished talents. I mention these circumstances to give you an idea of this agreeable company.

Yesterday, in our conversation after dinner, Signora Faustina informed Signor Marco that I had refused to come into her chamber in Rome, because she was in bed without her shift: "I beg your pardon, madam, (said I) "it was your own order to your servant, "that I should wait till you had first put it "on, which prevented me."

'It seems (continued the lady) that this is 'not the custom in your country, and I hope 'we shall not be thought the worse of on that 'account, as the perspiration in bed in the
summer

' summer would be very disagreeable, if body
 ' linen were worn; besides, should any person
 ' come into the room while we are covered
 ' with a sheet only, nothing below the neck
 ' could be seen, which cannot be thought in-
 ' decent, as by the present mode of gala dress,
 ' even the bosom is pretty much exposed.'

Yesterday I took a long ride with Signor
 Marco among the hills, one of which we
 discovered had formerly been a volcano, by
 the cinders and ashes round its large crater.
 In our ramble we picked up one of the stones
 so remarkable for producing in autumn ex-
 cellent mushrooms,* which I shall preserve,
 and try the experiment, by leaving it at the
 proper season in the moist air. These stones
 are rather smooth, but not of very hard con-
 sistency, as they fall to pieces with the mode-
 rate stroke of a hammer. I cannot account

* In spring and autumn they have in Italy excellent field
 mushrooms of three sorts, the yellow, brown, and red; which
 are dressed various ways, stewed, broiled, cut in pieces and
 fried. The latter method I prefer, but prepared in any man-
 ner they make a most excellent dish. I have seen some of
 the large brown sort in England; though we do not use them,
 they are here seldom sold at less than ninepence a pound.

for this vegetation by any other cause than that such stones have been quickly formed from certain earth, containing a quantity of the spawn of mushrooms; and Signor Marco informed me that this mountain was more remarkable than any other for such productions.

We called at my request at several cottages, whose inhabitants (as well as those in divers other parts of Italy) scarcely ever eat any thing but Indian corn-meal boiled into *polenta*, something like hasty-pudding; and instead of bread, they make use of a baked thick paste, composed of the flour of chestnuts; but here their wine and oil were tolerable, and they have excellent wild fallads on the mountains in great abundance.

On my desiring the lady to lend me her carriage to go to Terracinà, there to take my own, and proceed on the journey, she told me it was needless to make the attempt, it being Holy Thursday, when horses are not permitted to be used, by reason of the obligation on all ranks of people to visit on foot the sepulchres in churches, in commemoration of our Saviour's death; and as the
ladies

ladies could not be excused from this ceremony, we escorted* them to the town of Terracina, where having paid their devotions, we returned, and sat down to a good dinner of excellent fresh fish, which cost about threepence per pound; whereas the like in quality cannot generally be bought at Leghorn for five times that price.

In the afternoon we took a long walk, and being seated in a cottage, Signora Faustina and her gentleman stole out, while I and Signora Carolina were talking with the seemingly happy peasants;§ and after waiting an hour for them in vain, and it growing dark, we thought it adviseable to return home, where we did not arrive before eleven o'clock, having missed the road. On our entrance into the house, we found the lady and gentleman at supper, who were highly

* Which we could not have done in cities, as this is the only day in the year that married ladies are obliged to walk in public with their husbands.

§ By their conversation I discovered they were employed at the farm of Signora Faustina, and that they often received tokens of her beneficence, by which means they had the conveniency of clean and separate beds for their family.

pleased with the trick they had served us, and partaking also of the repast, we joined in the mirth, and soon forgot the fatigues of our involuntary stray. Before retiring to rest, the lady ordered her carriage to be ready early in the morning, to convey me to my vetturino, in case I would not spend the Easter with her; which reluctantly declining, I took leave of the ladies, who, besides their mirthful conversation, possessed charitable feelings for the wants of others.

LETTER XXIII.

Fondi, (the first town in the Neapolitan State) April 18th, 1794.

I WAS detained here two hours, to have my baggage examined by the Director of the Custom-house, who was not pleased to be at leisure till that time.

Having taken leave last-night of the family with whom I had spent many happy hours, on going this morning into the library for my copy-books of letters, I was surprised to find
Signora

Signora Faustina there so early. We sat down to breakfast, and she gave me a letter to her friend Donna* Maria at Naples. "You have introduced me to this lady before," said I. 'Yes, (replied Signora Faustina) but this letter is a more particular one.' "Then, as it is open, I presume I may read it." 'Certainly.' I did so, and heartily thanked her for the contents, as it was an injunction on her friend to look on me as one of her own family.

'Now, sir, (said the lady) I have a request to make of you. My steward is going to Gaeta and Capua with two large sums of money, which I beg you will permit to be taken into your carriage, and he shall attend you on horseback.' "This I agree to, Madam, but your steward shall accompany me in the carriage, and my servant shall ride his horse." I then with great regret took leave of Signora Faustina, and going in her carriage to Terracina, afterwards pursued the journey in my own.

* In other parts of Italy the ladies and gentlemen are called Signor and Signora, but at Naples they are called Don and Donna.

Finding the steward to be a man of intelligence, I was glad of his company. "I am
 " forry (said I) that I could not stay longer at
 " your lady's house, as both she and her sister
 " are most agreeable women." ' They are so
 ' (said he) in every respect, and all those
 ' employed in their farms owe them a thou-
 ' sand obligations. The estate which you
 ' have seen, sir, belongs to Signora Faustina,
 ' the income of which is more than four
 ' thousand crowns a year; and her sister has
 ' one of the like value near Rome. These
 ' estates were left to them by their father,
 ' and it was their marriage-portion, which
 ' they manage themselves, their husbands
 ' being very glad to get rid of the trouble.
 ' About this time of the year these ladies visit
 ' one of their country-seats, and stay there
 ' three weeks, and then proceed to the other
 ' estate, where they will remain some weeks
 ' longer. They bring with them a variety of
 ' presents for all those persons who are em-
 ' ployed in their farms. Next Sunday (being
 ' Easter Day) after mass they will be en-
 ' gaged in hearing the children of the cot-
 ' tagers read, and then they will distribute
 ' the

‘ the presents which they bring with them,
 ‘ consisting of articles of dress; and the like
 ‘ ceremony will be performed to the people
 ‘ on the farm of Signora Carolina.’

I asked him how it was possible, at such a distance, for them to keep in hand a farm of such magnitude; he replied, ‘ Nothing is
 ‘ more easy; the owners of lands in the Roman State let their farms on condition to
 ‘ receive one-third of the produce: the first
 ‘ year of letting the farm they stock it with
 ‘ beasts of draught, with carts, waggon, &c.
 ‘ and all implements of husbandry; they also
 ‘ provide feed-corn, and manure.

‘ The tenant has two-thirds of the produce,
 ‘ and he provides labour. In case any of the
 ‘ cattle should die, they are to be replaced at
 ‘ the general expence, and at the like rate the
 ‘ utensils are to be repaired. The hogs and
 ‘ sheep that are fed on the mountains are the
 ‘ property of the landlord; but the wool and
 ‘ the increase of such cattle are divided in
 ‘ thirds, as is the corn.’

I observed to him that the tenant ought to be very honest; for it was in his power to defraud the landlord. He replied, that in
 such

such a large farm a steward always lived in the mansion-house of the landlord, in order to see the estate well treated by the tenant, and the profits properly divided.

In general, (said he) the expence of keeping a steward continually upon the estate is useless, for the tenants have a very handsome profit, and they are sure of being turned out of the farm on proof of the least fraud.

LETTER XXIV.

*Mola di Gaeta, Good Friday,
April 18, 1794.*

I ARRIVED here this afternoon, where the driver determined to remain all night.

Observing a number of people on the beach, curiosity led me to enquire what they were about, which I quickly discovered, seeing a new-born dead child driven on shore by the waves. The unhappy mother was soon found, and brought before the magistrate, to whom she confessed that she had thrown the infant the preceding night alive into the sea, which
inhuman

inhuman act had been committed, she said, by order of her master, a fisherman, who was its father, and had threatened to turn her into the street in case she refused complying with his diabolical command. Being present at her examination, I was surprised to find the magistrate had given no orders for apprehending the father, and the wretched mother was set at liberty.

It is a great pity that, in country-towns in Italy, foundling-hospitals* are not established, as in large cities, where infants are received and maintained without any enquiry; the females till they find husbands, or are sent out to service; the males are put to nurse in villages, and as soon as capable of working, are placed with farmers, or to trades in the cities. Some hospitals give small dowries to the girls, which circumstance often facilitates their marriage. They are permitted to stand

* At Pisa there is a most magnificent *trovatello*, or foundling-hospital. Her Grace the amiable Duchess of Devonshire, when in that city last year, went several times to see the management of the house, which she complained of to the Tuscan government, and by her Grace's representation the abuses were remedied.

at the windows to shew themselves, and sometimes walk out with their nurfes.

It is with pain I mention that murders among the lower clafs of people are very frequent in fome parts of Italy; and I moft heartily wifh that a change of laws would take place to bring fome of the wilful offenders to condign punifhment. Among fome of the higher clafs, there are instances of fuch offenders efcaping juftice by pecuniary fatisfaction, or church protection; yet I fhould do injuftice to Tufcany not to fay, that murders are lefs frequent there than in any other part of Italy.

After dinner I took a boat in order to examine this bay, once famous for being the afylum of the Roman fleet when forced into it by ftormy weather; but a gale of wind coming on, towards evening, attended with a rough fea, I was glad to get fafe back at a late hour of the night.

LETTER

LETTER XXV.

Mola di Gaeta, April 18, 1794.

BEING detained here by tempestuous weather, and in the Neapolitan State, I shall say something of the manner of its inhabitants.

I was remarking to the steward, my present companion, the horrid deed that I had yesterday been witness to, of the murder of an infant, and my surprise that the magistrate had permitted the villainous father to escape. “It is no wonder, (said he) in small places like this, that enormous crimes go unpunished, while in the capital of the kingdom, under the royal eye, all kinds of wickedness are committed with impunity, often by bribing those in authority. Perhaps the fishmonger, the instigator of the murder of the infant, has promised to supply for a certain time the magistrate’s table with fish.”

The steward having left me for a few hours to do his business, that I may not remain idle in this lifeless village, I will recount something to you from the books I have with me.

John

John Boccacio, the famous Italian novelist and first refiner of the Italian prose, is extremely severe in his animadversions on the nuns; for which he is accused by some as being too censorious; others are of a contrary opinion, and think that his intent was to expose the debaucheries of convents with a design to invite them to an amendment.

In his first novel of the second day, he says, In Alexandria* there was a monastery containing eight holy sisters, besides the lady abbess. A young man named Maffet, of the village of Lamporechio, having been told by the old gardener that he had left the service of the nuns, went himself to the convent with his spade, and pretending to be deaf and dumb by signs shewed that he wanted employment as a gardener; and being approved of by the *factotum*, or steward of the convent, he was set to work in the garden.

One day Maffet pretending to be asleep under an almond-tree, two young nuns came

* The author being too delicate to mention the real place where this convent was, as some of the nuns were living in his time, has said it was in Alexandria, but the convent he refers to was actually in Calabria.

thither,

thither, exclaiming against their parents, for binding them up to chastity, which they never followed themselves. ‘Now, (continued they) as this young man by his defects cannot blab, if frailty should be committed with him, nature will keep the deed a secret; and in case either of us should be pregnant we have means enough to prevent conception.’ To make the story short, which is rather indelicate, the whole sisterhood became pregnant, Masset recovered the use of his pretended lost speech, and returned to his own village.

Boccacio, with the same good intent to correct the morals of the monks and friars, has handled them also very severely in his novels.

Signor Gorani, an Italian, in his publication this year, mentions several instances of the debaucheries of the fraternity; and as he is an author of credibility, I will mention some things, which he says happened while he was at Naples.

An infamous monk of the order of St. Augustin killed a woman in the church, and still lives unmolested in the convent, being doubly protected from the punishment due to his

his crime; first as a monk, and also as belonging to the noble family of Gennaro. This villainous monk having kept company with a very handsome young woman, one of her female neighbours advised her to be circumspect in receiving the visits of this religious man: this she communicated to her lover, and also the name of her friend who gave the advice; on whom he resolved to be revenged. The poor woman being one day at her devotion at the church belonging to the convent, the monk fell into discourse with her till such time as the other people had left the church, when all of a sudden he drew a dagger from under his habit, and plunged it into her bosom: after which the prior sent him to another convent a few miles distant, where he remained until the noise of the murder was over. At the end of four months he returned to his own convent, and did the duty of his office in the same church that he had so atrociously profaned by a premeditated murder.

Five Recollet monks barbarously murdered their superior, for advising them to be more regular in the observance of the rules of their order.

Another

Another Reccollet monk, being confessor to a beautiful young lady, instructed her to take the jewels of her family, and ran off with her to Paris, where their finances becoming very short, he sold or assigned her to another, and returning to his convent received a pardon.

It is astonishing (says Gorani) that government takes no notice of such offenders.

The convents of nuns (he continues to say) are the theatres of the most unbridled revellings.

By his account there are in the kingdom of Naples, not including Sicily, four millions eight hundred thousand souls; eighty-eight thousand of which are such as are called *religiosi*, viz. friars, priests, and nuns, which are lost to society by their vows of chastity; besides some thousands of bastards, of which nineteen out of twenty perish before they arrive to an adult age.

Gorani says that one must be at Naples, and in the convents of that country, to form an idea of the degree of brutality to which the priests and monks are arrived.

SOME

SOME APOLOGY FOR THE NUNS.

I think Gorani is too general in his reflections on the nuns, as I make no doubt there are many who voluntarily enter into convents, and keep strictly the vows they have taken. It is well known, particularly in the Roman and Neapolitan State, that when the females of families become numerous, the parents, in order to keep up a degree of grandeur, and not willing too much to divide their income, force some of the daughters, contrary to their inclinations, to enter into convents; which they cannot refuse on the representation of the parents, with a fee to those in power, that they have not fortune sufficient to provide for all their children; and without a marriage-portion very few young women in Italy have a chance of matrimony.

It is no wonder, therefore, that those who are thus constrained to submit to the arbitrary will of unnatural parents, with inclinations to obey the first commands of the Creator, cannot easily forget that they were brought into the world for other purposes when entering into convents, and mingling with those under the
like

like hard fate, they become alike profligate. As this evil originates from the want of good order in the state, and from the cruelty of parents, great allowances ought to be made for their actions.

I was told of a young woman in the Venetian State under such compulsion, who was sullen, and threatened to refuse to take the veil as soon as her year's noviceship should be expired. In order to divert her intention the abbess made her noviceship less rigorous, and a comedy was proposed to be performed by the sisterhood in the convent, in which this noviciate was to act the part of a queen. Her consent gave great joy to the parents, who furnished her for that purpose with the jewels of the family. Her lover managed the matter so well that he got her conveyed over the wall of the garden, and ran away with her to Holland.

LETTER

LETTER XXVI.

Capua, April 20th, 1794.*

HAVING a letter from Signor Marco for Mr. White, the director of a steam-engine, about a mile from this city, for the purpose of watering some meadows for the King of Naples, I went to see the works, and was civilly entertained by that gentleman and his spouse.

In the afternoon I paid a visit to the procurator of a large convent of monks, whom I before knew, and he carried me to a nunnery to see his sister, where we were agreeably amused at the grate (it being Easter-Sunday, and a privileged day) by some of the ladies, who sung, accompanied by others on the piano-forte and guittar.

Being returned to my inn, and having taken leave of the steward, I went to a friend's *conversation*, where there was nearly the same

* The ancient Capua is about eight miles from hence, so fatal to Hannibal's troops (by the beauty of the women) during their sojourning in that city.

kind

kind of recreation as I have already described to you; and however strange and ridiculous this custom may appear, it is not by any means so corrupt as in Venice, where most of the ladies have an elegant house called a *casina*, (detached from that of their family) in which they spend the evening with their *ganzos*, and other company; and at eleven o'clock they go to their boxes at the opera, where they remain till five in the morning, from whence they retire again to the *casina* to supper or gaming, till they chuse to return to their husbands and families. Those ladies and gentlemen who have no *casina*, waste their hours in coffee-houses* before and after the opera.

Some ladies have more than one *ganzo*, and whenever they are invited to dinner, or any other entertainment, these cavaliers always accompany them without any invitation.

There are many theatres in Venice, but the *fenici* or grand theatre is one of the finest in Europe, where the first vocal and instrumen-

* In the summer, ladies as well as gentlemen frequent the coffee-houses in the evening, for the purpose of cold refreshments, such as ice-cream, frozen punch, lemonade, &c.

tal performers are generally engaged at an enormous expence; to the principal fingers and dancers only the audience pay attention; the inferior performers are seldom noticed, serving only to fill up time, and prevent what passes in the boxes from being heard.

The rich inhabitants, instead of being protectors to the inferior class, are very haughty and depraved. The magisterial tyranny is too well known to need further explanation. All which circumstances tend to make Venice the most distinguished seat of wanton luxury in Europe.

LETTER XXVII.

Naples, April 21, 1794.

I AM now arrived in this city, and have taken a couple of rooms at a lodging-house opposite to the beautiful fountain, called *Fonte di Medina*, very near to the mole of the harbour; and where I have a full view from my window of Mount Vesuvius.

I had been here only a few days, when notice was given to the inhabitants to retire to
their

their houses, as an insurrection was announced by the threats of a man who was that day to be executed. His crime was for having entered a church, and while the priest was elevating the host at high-mass, he called out and desired him not to deceive the people by such ceremonies, making use of blasphemous expressions, and also saying that the King of Naples would soon be deposed, and the country freed from his tyranny. He was seized on, carried to prison, and publicly tried; he repeated to the judges what he had before said, adding that he himself had once laid in wait for the King to assassinate him, and though it did not then take place, it would soon be effected by others. The judges ordered him to be taken out of court, and confined as a madman; but he persisted in saying that he was in his perfect senses, and demanded his sentence, which was to have his tongue cut out, and his body hanged and burnt. He then boldly asked the judges if his tongue was to be cut out from his mouth before or after his death; on being told the latter, he said that when brought to the gallows he should inform the spectators

what they ought to do, and that a great number of accomplices would join them, not only to rescue him from death, but to compleat a revolution. He was born at Palermo, had been bred to the law, and would have no advocate to assist him at his trial.

All the troops in and about the city were ordered to attend his execution. He walked from the prison to the gallows with a piece of wood fastened in his mouth. The two priests who attended him, at every step exhorted him to repentance, and to discover his abettors, desiring him, if he assented, to incline his head, and he should receive a pardon; but he continued obstinate, and made signs that they should conduct him to the place of execution, where the sentence was performed without any disturbance.

LETTER XXVIII.

Naples, April 22, 1794.

SOME days before the execution which I have related, many people of distinction were seized, on and conveyed secretly by night in sedan

sedan chairs to the state prison in St. Elmo's castle, and as the King and royal family were then in their palace at Caserta, an order was issued out to search all foot-passengers going towards that village. Mr. Hackman, an English gentleman, travelling thither on foot, was examined, but no instrument of death being found on him, he was permitted to continue his journey. This gentleman lodged at Naples in the same house with myself. He has travelled over the greater part of Europe on foot; and from him I expected much useful information, but was disappointed, by his saying, that he walked on and took no notice of any thing.

The execution of the Sicilian lawyer induces me to recur to a law made by the late Emperor Peter Leopold, some years ago, when he was Grand Duke of Tuscany, ordering all engines of torment and execution to be destroyed, and to change punishment of death into that of the galleys for a number of years proportioned to crimes; and on working days the criminals to be kept at hard labour in the streets, or at public buildings, chained in couples, with their crimes printed and fixed to

to their coats. This mutation of punishment from death to slavery has had a very good effect, for having lived in Tuscany more than eight years, and having made enquiry, I have found that fewer crimes have been committed than before.

LETTER XXIX.

Naples, April 24, 1794.

HAVING in my former letter mentioned Leopold when Grand Duke of Tuscany, I cannot avoid informing you, that while at Florence it was his custom every Monday and Saturday at one of his palaces to receive written petitions or complaints from persons of the highest to the lowest rank. Willing to see this ceremony (which could not be effected without a formal petition). I desired one of his under-secretaries (Mr. Young, the eldest son of an Englishman, who died in his service) to draw a petition, requesting, to see his manufacture of broad-cloth, which was carried on at the old fortress in that city. On
entering

entering a large room in the palace, in which benches were placed for the petitioners, I found more than forty people already assembled of both sexes, and of various denominations. My petition was received by a gentleman in waiting, and carried into a small room, where the prince was sitting at a writing table, to whom in my turn I was called, and standing before him, he said, with my petition in his hand, "You are, sir, of the "British Factory at Leghorn?" to which I replied in the affirmative, adding, that I was happy under the wise protecting laws of his Royal Highness. Whereupon he laid my petition on a chair by his side, and stedfastly looking at me, asked if I had any other request, on which I retired; the next morning a positive order was brought to me, addressed to the director of that manufacture, that every branch of the work might be shewn to me, which I did not neglect to examine, and was surprised to find it in a state of great perfection; but by their calculation it was found that the superfine cloths were dearer than those from England, which the director supposed was occasioned by their being much more

more substantial than ours, and they had made several attempts to reduce them to the same standard without effect.

Having viewed the whole manufacture, and being returned to Leghorn, I was informed by Cavalier de Montauto, governor of that city, that his Royal Highness the Grand Duke had deigned to offer me to be naturalized, without any expence; and that if I would reside in Florence, and now and then inspect his woollen manufacture, he would make the change worth my acceptance. The first of these offers I thought proper to accept, but the latter I declined, fearing that it would be injurious to my own country.

The above-mentioned Mr. Young, his brother, and two sisters, are children of the late Mr. Young, master of mathematics to the Grand Duke's naval officers. After the father's death his Royal Highness placed the two sons at college; the eldest is now one of the private secretaries to the Emperor of Germany, the other is in his army. Their two sisters were ladies in waiting to the Grand Duchess, consort to Leopold; she was the
late

late King of Spain's daughter, and a lady of the highest merit. The regard for her children, and respect for her husband, caused her Royal Highness to visit several ladies who were his favourites, and he in return treated her with the greatest esteem; for although Leopold had several attachments of this kind, he never suffered any of them to shew disrespect to his family, or to interfere in state affairs. He was generous, charitable, and frequently sought for objects worthy of his bounty; and whoever had been of service to him or his ministers, even in the attempt, were sure to be rewarded. Murders are seldom known in Tuscany owing to his wise laws, and I heard of but one highway-robbery while I resided there; the common people, indeed, are addicted to pilfering trifles, but effects of great value are seldom in danger.

The recovery of property, as well at Naples as at Venice, is tedious and expensive; for although the laws are founded on the ancient Roman basis, yet the lawyers pervert them to the worst of purposes, and are known frequently to take fees on both sides; and as
causes

causes are carried on by a written process, the rich by such means have the advantage.

Leopold enacted a law, that no creditor should arrest the person of a debtor, as effects only ought, in equity, to be liable to the payment of debts; and that the whole property of the debtor should (on his failure) become the property of his creditors, except the implements of his profession, and enough household furniture for the use of his family. It was said that this law would prevent industrious people from being supplied with money by the rich. Leopold was of a different opinion; he said, "Men of probity and industry
" will always find lenders of money, and it is
" their business to place their money well,
" and keep an eye on their debtor, and see
" that he goes on with œconomy."

I have visited with great pleasure the hospitals for the sick at Florence and at Pisa, which were established by Leopold; they are kept in most excellent order, and the physical attendants on them are well paid. Over the door of the latter hospital is inscribed, "*Providentia Leopoldi, Patris Pauperum*;"—and he was truly so, for never did any other
absolute

absolute prince attend so much to the good and happiness of his people. The liberty of commerce which he granted has produced the present flourishing state of his dominions; the husbandman also feels it, and there is not a foot of land uncultivated in Tuscany, which is not the case in any other part of Italy.

He has not been inattentive to the fine arts and sciences. His gallery of pictures and statues is not equalled in any part of Europe. His cabinet of natural history, under the care of Signor Fontana, is worthy of admiration, both for the quantity and rarity of every article he could find valuable. Each class is disposed of in separate rooms, well fitted up for the purpose, and the curious have no difficulty in being admitted.

Some years ago there were four academies of belles-lettres at Florence, which Leopold united into one, under the name of the Florentine Academy, and appointed a president, two secretaries, and two censors. This academy has two sittings a week, where any stranger has free access. The members open the sitting alternately, by a discourse of their own choosing; the secretary afterwards invites the

the other academicians and even strangers to read. The academicians have no distinct place in the assembly, excepting those in office, but each takes his seat as he enters.

Leopold wished them to compleat the Dictionary of the Italian language, which had been begun by the Academy of La Crusca. This, however, they declined, saying it would be rashness to continue the words of a language which has not yet been formed; as the Italian language has hitherto had no fixed abode. It is said to be spoken most pure at Sienna, but there exists still in Italy a language of Ariosto, Tasso, and Boccacio; and until we know which to prefer, or what to reject from each author, it cannot properly be said that there is an Italian language: this observation I heard at one of their sittings. The present Count Alfieri has in his excellent tragedies endeavoured to combine and fix the language, but his attempt has not succeeded either at Venice, Naples, or Rome; so that at present the Italian language remains imperfect.

About a mile from Florence is the small but beautiful palace *Poggio Imperiale*, where
 Leopold

Leopold was accustomed to reside without guards, and with few attendants. On Sundays, numbers of country people used to go to see the palace and their prince, where the meanest of them could speak to him as a father. I was once there with Mr. M——, when Leopold perceived me, and recollecting my having presented a petition to him, (as I have before mentioned) he threw aside all dignity, and taking me into the garden, we conversed together on commerce, &c. It will be thought that I am an enthusiast for this prince; I am so—for besides his royal merit, I think it a great honour to have been known by him.

His army does not amount to four thousand men, yet he had the courage to suppress a great number of convents of friars and nuns; but he was well convinced of their debauchery, and that they were not worthy to eat the bread of the industrious. I have been often to Florence; sometimes I have travelled from Leghorn, through Lucca and Pistoia; at other times from Florence to Sienna, and I once had permission from Leopold to go down the Arno from Florence to
Pisa,

Pisa, in one of his gondolas. Cultivation is in all parts of his dominions in high perfection, his people are happy, and the whole state experiences a population unknown before the reign of the wise Leopold.

LETTER XXX.

Naples, 6th May, 1794.

AS soon as I had put the business in train which brought me here, I waited on Donna Maria with the letter of recommendation from her friend Signora Faustina. I found her and her husband both at home; they were in deep mourning, but I did not then presume to ask for whom. They received me according to the wishes of our mutual friend, and dining with them, they gave me a general invitation; and as they had two coaches, one was to be at my service, which I sometimes accepted of. Her husband Don Filippo had been an advocate of great talents, but having had a fortune left him, was now retired from
the

public practice of the law. The lady was a distant relation of Signora Faustina, and previous to her marriage had spent two years at her house in Rome, where they had contracted a strict friendship.

Being very desirous to know something of the Neapolitan laws, of which I had heard many strange accounts, I asked my friend (for so I called him) to accompany me when he had leisure, to hear the pleadings of the courts. He politely replied, that if I would do him the pleasure to call the next morning at twelve o'clock, he would spend some hours for that purpose, on condition that I would dine with them, which I readily accepted. "Why not call before that hour?" said the lady. Recollecting that I had nothing to do the next morning, I answered that I was at her commands; "then, sir, I beg that you will break-fast with us at nine o'clock;" which I also promised, and took my leave.

LETTER XXXI.

Naples, May 7th, 1794.

I WAS punctual this morning in calling on Donna Maria at the appointed hour, and was shewn into her chamber; she being in bed, desired me to sit by her. There were in the room four of her children, and a priest giving them lessons; she bade him retire till the next morning, and after I had admired the children, (for they were really pretty) she ordered them to go to their governess, and to tell their father that I was there. The coffee being brought in, we breakfasted together, after which he retired, saying that he had something of importance to do, but would be punctual at twelve to conduct me to the law-courts.

The lady begged I would excuse her not paying me more civilities when I was before at Naples, but having now such a pressing letter from her friend to treat me as one of her own family, she requested I would, during my stay in Naples, look on her house as my own. ‘ You must have been very happy
 ‘ (said

‘ (said she) in being acquainted with the two
‘ ladies you left at Terracina, whose merit is
‘ more than I can describe, and for whom I
‘ shall ever retain the greatest esteem.’

She desiring me to lay aside all restraint, I asked her for whom she was in mourning? She replied, that it was for her friend, (her cicisbeo) who died a few weeks since, and if her husband would give permission, she would in future have no other, by which means she should be able to attend more to the education of her children; she was, however, fearful that her husband would not easily agree to it, as he was attached to a very worthy lady.

“ You have (said I) madam, four charming
“ children.” ‘ I have four more,’ (she replied) and ringing the bell, ordered the governesses to bring them in; they were younger than the first four, which excited my surprize, the mother having every appearance of youth and bloom. “ You have made quick work,
“ madam.” ‘ I know what you allude to,
‘ (said she) as our mutual friends have communicated to me the conversation you have
‘ had with them on cicisbeism; and although

‘ I have some trifling objections, the custom
 ‘ I do not altogether dislike; for as our husbands
 ‘ bands will have a connection of this kind,
 ‘ we also think it an undoubted right to have
 ‘ a similar friend.’ “ And pray, Madam,
 “ how many of your beautiful daughters are
 “ destined to be nuns ?” ‘ God forbid that
 ‘ any one of them should enter into a convent;
 ‘ my husband being also averse to it,
 ‘ we will reduce our expences in order to
 ‘ provide marriage-portions for them all.’ I
 asked her, if she had read Gorani’s discourse
 on that subject. She replied, that his publication
 was in their library, and although he was a little
 too severe, the picture that he had drawn of some
 of the convents was not altogether imperfect: ‘ I
 will carry you, (said she) one morning to one of
 those convents: I have a distant relation there,
 who I believe is not one of the worst.’

Don Filippo coming at the appointed hour, she
 desired him to bring from her toilet the fomentation,
 and while we walked about the room she used it
 in fomenting her bosom. I asked her husband
 if she had any ailment; he replied in the negative,
 but it was her custom

so to do after weaning her children, in order to reduce her bosom to the delicate symmetry it was in before marriage. On my being desirous to know the composition of the fomentation, she promised as soon as dressed to write the receipt and method of use, with other directions necessary on such occasion; and with great good-humour said, ‘ If you
 ‘ intend this secret for particular friends, I
 ‘ will inform you of the whole process, all
 ‘ which is not only safe but healthy, giving
 ‘ no pain, but has a contrary effect, and it
 ‘ may be used with as much safety as the most
 ‘ innocent wash for the face; I am therefore
 ‘ surprised that our friends at Rome (who
 ‘ gave you the letter for me) did not, among
 ‘ other things, converse with you on this sub-
 ‘ ject, as those ladies were the first inventors,
 ‘ and they had the goodness to impart the se-
 ‘ cret to me; and your admiration will now
 ‘ cease at those ladies having so youthful an
 ‘ appearance.’ Her husband, smiling at our discourse, told me that the coach was ready, and taking our leave we promised to return at four o’clock.

A VISIT TO A LAW COURT.

Don Filippo conducted me first to the civil law court. The ascent to it was dirty beyond description, and the stairs being crowded with lawyers, hackney writers, and advocates, passing and repassing, made it difficult to ascend. In this court there were five judges on the bench, to whom very little respect was paid; the advocates indecently talking and laughing while the written process was reading, for all causes are carried on in that way. We sat down at the board before the judges, and my friend desired me to pay attention to an advocate then reading the case of his client. He was one of the most distinguished; his expressions were so energetic, and the facts so clearly stated in sublime language, that I could not but imagine the cause would soon be decided in favour of his client. My friend told me that this cause had been before the court seven years, and it was not unlikely that it would continue as many more. After staying three hours, and hearing the opposite advocate, we quitted the court, and returning home, he said, ‘ You
‘ seem

‘ seem surpris’d that causes are so long determining; but you must know that we have in this city lawyers of all denominations surpassing the number of eleven thousand, and all will live; and when it might be thought by strangers that a verdict was near at hand, new suborned witnesses are procured to controvert what had been before produced in evidence.’ I told him that I had heard it was not uncouthomary for the judges to be bribed; ‘ I am sorry, (said he) to be of the same opinion, for their pay is so small, and being obliged to keep up a certain rank equal to their dignity, they are liable to such temptations.’

As soon as the pleadings on a cause are over, strangers retire, and the judges proceed to a verdict without much deliberation, because the sentence will undergo perhaps ten revisions. This is the cruel scourge of the Neapolitans; and the civil law may be said to be nothing more than a disorder, for there is no real constitution in the state, and sovereign decision is also very uncertain.

In Sicily it is worse; the haughty Barons imprison their vassals by a written order, assigning

signing no other reason than “*It is our pleasure;*” and they also punish with death their vassals with impunity.

Criminal causes in Naples are also carried on by a written process; but such prisoners as have no means to employ an advocate, have one appointed by the Crown; called *the Defender of the Poor*. When the sentence of death is passed, no execution can take place till the criminal confesses the guilt, which if not done immediately, he is put into a shocking dungeon, and only a small quantity of bread and water is allowed him, so that he either expires in that confinement, or, confessing, he is carried to execution.

‘ During my practice, (said my friend) I was witness to many final decisions, both civil and criminal, which would shock the ears of humanity.’ He was going to recount them, but notice was given that dinner was on the table, and we joined his lady and amiable children.

At seven o’clock the husband took leave of us to go to his female friend, and soon after I accompanied his wife to her father’s house, where was a small, but agreeable society.

LETTER

LETTER XXXII.

Naples, May 10th, 1794.

I HAVE delivered the letter which I mentioned to you from Leghorn, to Sir William Hamilton, British envoy at this court, who received me with his accustomed politeness.

His publications are well known to have great merit, by throwing new light on ancient history. His excellent museum consists of the most curious collection of rare antiquities, bought at a great expence from those who have dug them from Herculaneum and Pompeia. The figures and hieroglyphics on his various urns and vases clearly confirm his ideas of more remote ages than have in general been recorded; which he had the goodness to explain to me, and of which I have made some memorandums.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

Naples, May 14th, 1794.

MY first excursion was to visit Mount Vefuvius, which is situated about five miles from this city. Near two miles from the base of that mountain stood the extensive city of *Herculaneum**, which had been deeply covered over with burning lava by an eruption from the mountain in the year of our Lord 79, in the reign of Titus; over which city now stands the beautiful large town of Portici, as also one of the King's palaces, and a vast building for the purpose of containing the great quantity of antiquities that have been from time to time taken out of the cities formerly buried under lava and ashes.

Being acquainted with an officer of artillery in the King's service, who resided at Por-

* The ancient historian Dionysius of Halicarnassus says, that this very old city was founded by Hercules Fenicius, who was supposed to be the same Eschol that was colleague with Abraham the patriarch, and from whom Hercules' Pillars near the Streights of Gibraltar have derived their name.

tici,

tici, he accompanied me to the top of Vesuvius, and looking into the crater, I could see nothing but smoak, so that the trouble and expence of creeping up was not repaid by any new discovery. That gentleman having free access into the King's museum, conducted me from room to room, and had sufficient patience to explain the surprizing quantity of the various articles of art and pleasure of renowned Greece, in the formation of which the inhabitants of those ancient cities were remarkably famous, particularly for their vases, urns, and culinary utensils, which have served as models for our present manufactures.

At the end of one of the galleries is a small room kept locked, and having no ladies with us, my friend ordered it to be opened, in which is placed a single bronze statue of a goat and satyr in a joined unnatural position, that with decency cannot be described, and had it been mine I would have thrown it into the burning mountain, which had once buried it under its lava.

Some of the rooms of the museum are floored with mosaic pavements, taken from the houses in Pompeia; and in one room are
placed

placed in a regular order, physical and surgical instruments, which plainly shew that the ancient Greeks and Romans were greatly skilled in these most useful professions.

The private and public manuscripts found in Pompeia were written on leaves of trees, but having been rolled up in parcels and buried so many ages, they cannot be opened but with great difficulty. There is, however, a gentleman employed by the King in this museum, who has contrived a kind of silk loom in a glass case, by which he is making some progress in the unfolding of them, and when his Majesty shall determine to make all these manuscripts public they will be very interesting, since they will convey to the present age many useful ideas relative to the arts and sciences of those very remote times,

LETTER XXXIV.

Naples, May 18, 1794.

I SPENT most of my evenings close under Vesuvius, at the house of Sir James Douglas,
the

the British consul, a worthy man with an agreeable wife and children. Being near to Portici, I had frequent opportunities of calling on my friend there, who accompanied me early one morning to visit the city of Herculaneum,* to which we gradually descended with lights through a narrow arched passage. The principal building now in it, most conspicuous, is a very large theatre; the orchestra and stage seem compleat, the seats and the backs for the audience are of stone, and in some places broken. The damp and dense air in this now subterraneous city so chilled my curiosity, that being satisfied with what I had seen, we ascended again to the open air, and viewed with wonder the immense and beautiful buildings at this time actually standing on the lava, which now covers the once renowned Herculaneum.

* Which by chance was discovered by a common labourer in the year 1689, and Charles III. his late Catholic Majesty, when King of Naples, began to excavate for antiquities for the improvement of arts and sciences.

LETTER XXXV.

Naples, May 19th, 1794.

I CALLED one morning on my friend Don Filippo, and we paid a visit to the very ancient city Pompeia, which Dionysius of Halicarnassus says is more ancient than Herculaneum, as he describes the situation of Herculaneum to have been *inter Pompeiam et Neapolim*, and it was entirely buried by the ashes of Mount Vesuvius at the same time that Herculaneum was covered with ashes and lava.

Pompeia was discovered in the year 1755, by a husbandman in planting vines, whose spade in digging the holes, struck upon some buildings: on which others more curious began to remove the rubbish, and discovered vast marble columns. His late Catholic Majesty, when King of Naples, being informed of the same, purchased all the ground which he thought buried that city, and began soon after to uncover the buildings. The first discovery was one of the gates of the city, and by certain signs on the same, it is supposed that it was consecrated to luxury and pleasure.

The

The present King of Naples has followed on the work from the first discovered gate through a street about one mile in length, at the end of which another gate was found of the like kind, which seems to terminate the length of the city. On the outside of the wall are many tombs, by which that spot is supposed to have been a burial ground.

The whole street being now cleared from the volcanic rubbish, and the houses on each side disencumbered, and their doors and gates opened, the paintings on the walls are seen in high preservation; a considerable part of household goods still remains entire, and in many of the rooms the curious mosaic pavements are yet unbroken. Being tired with this day's walk, I must conclude.

LETTER XXXVI.

Naples, May 20th, 1794.

HAVING slept at a gentleman's house in the neighbourhood of Pompeia, we returned again the next morning to that city, and first
examined

examined the theatre, which has also been cleared from the rubbish ; and although not so large as that in Herculaneum, it is nevertheless more magnificently adorned with statues, paintings, inscriptions, and other antiquities. There is likewise a large building, in all probability once the barracks for soldiers, as in some of the apartments were found military arms so well preserved that they may even now be made use of. I must not omit to mention also a temple dedicated to the heathen god Priapus, with a figure over the gate which I will not explain. To this deity the ancient worship was by no means so ludicrous as some have conceived. The religious rites were performed in this temple by priests and virgins in the most fervent manner ; and such as were permitted to celebrate in that place of worship were first examined, and proved to be worthy of assisting those who came there to invoke the deity ; for as his power was conceived to be propitious to the increase of the human race, the invocation of him was publicly performed with the greatest regularity. My friend gave me an account of these ancient ceremonies in writing,

writing, which is too copious for my present letter, and perhaps not now proper to relate. He procured me from the temple one of the small figures* representing that god, which were supposed to be given to those who came to offer up their vows.

If this ancient and once famous city Pompeia was fortunately in possession of others more eager to throw new light on ancient history, it would be soon entirely cleared from its present covering of ashes, under which I have no doubt that numerous useful and curious antiquities would be discovered.

LETTER XXXVII.

Naples, May 21st, 1794.

LEAVING this part of the coast, we took a large boat, and went to the opposite side of the beautiful bay of Naples, to examine the antiquities there, which I shall not mention, as I find them described by others.

* They have others of a less size, which the women used to wear hanging on their breasts.

One day we stopt and dined at Misenum, from whence the young Pliny wrote to his friend Cornelius Tacitus, describing his flight to preserve himself and his most tender mother from destruction, by the shower of hot ashes and stones falling on that spot from Mount Vesuvius. On the other side of the bay, at the same period, his generous uncle that great philosopher the elder Pliny, being there to assist a lady, lay down on the ground to rest, and was suffocated by the sulphureous vapours from the mountain, and by some columns of ashes produced through the dreadful explosions from Vesuvius, on the day the cities of Pompeia and Stabia were unfortunately buried.*

* The elder Pliny, having at that time the command of the Roman fleet at Misenum, ordered some gallies to put to sea with an intent of assisting Rectina, the wife of his friend Bassus, who was then in imminent danger, her villa being near Mount Vesuvius.

LETTER XXXVIII.

Naples, May 24th, 1794.

WHILE we were on our ramble round the bay, my friend, recollecting that he had something particular to do, took the boat, and went to Naples, while I pursued on foot my enquiries with a Neapolitan cicerone, who had been hired for the purpose of explaining to me what was worthy of notice; from whom obtaining very little information, as he was more superficial than learned, I discharged him.

I stopt at a small house one morning, and asking the landlord what so many people were about on the sea-shore*, he replied, that it was the King on a fishing party, but that on such occasions the spectators were not to notice his rank. I went down to see the royal Zebedee, who was in a single waistcoat with his shirt-sleeves turned over his arm, and dis-

* In the neighbourhood of Paufilippo, in which are the *cumanum*, or academy, and country-house of Cicero.

posing of the fish at as hard bargains as he could; and then helped to draw ashore the net, which I staid to see effected, and I bought one of the fish. In these occupations the King frequently diverts himself, giving no inconvenience to his subjects. I wish the same could be said of him in his more frequent amusements of hunting and shooting; but I am told if any of the wild-boars or other animals of chace were to range out of his own parks or woods (where there are no fences) into those of private gentlemen or farmers, his majesty sends immediate commands, that the animals shall not be killed or driven away, and the owners of the lands are ordered not to cut down any of the trees or shrubs in the woods, but that they shall be kept as a covert for his strayed game. This violent excess of prerogative is too oppressive to animadvert on; for the proprietors of the lands are not only prohibited from turning into cash their trees or woods, but their more precious property of grain is consumed or trampled on by animals, which they have not in their power to kill or drive away. How different is this infringement on property from

from that of our own king and gentry, who amply pay for whatever damages a farmer sustains by the dogs or horses when in the chace!

LETTER XXXIX.

Naples, May 25th, 1794.

HAVING hired a boy at Misenum to carry my things, I tied up in a handkerchief the fish I had bought, and pursued on foot the road to Solfo Terra, and stopping at a farm-house I desired to have the fish dressed while I went to see the pit or hole of natural boiling sulphur, which is supposed to have a communication under the sea with Mount Vesuvius; as I was told the sulphur rose and sunk in that cauldron according as the mountain was more or less agitated. Returning again to the farm-house, (which in England would be called a cot) I lay there that night, and in the morning I paid the owner for my lodging, and other trifles; and giving his daughter a small piece of money for her attendance, the

father told me that for somewhat more I might take her with me to Naples,* saying, that it was his only child, and having no longer the means of maintaining her, and as she was almost thirteen years of age, he could not be further burdened with her. I told him that I did not intend to stay long at Naples, but that I would enquire for a servant's place for her among my acquaintance. I asked him if she could read, to which he replied that he had no means to procure her so high an education.

It is impossible for me to give you a true idea of the general ignorance and savageness of peasants in the Neapolitan state; for were I to describe them as they really are, you would think that I was in some barbarous country, and not on the ground formerly so renowned for humanity and learning.

* This offer put me in mind of what is well known of parents in Georgia and Circassia, on the Black Sea, selling their young beautiful daughters to traders, who go there for the purpose of buying them, and they are carried from thence to Turkey, and on the Barbary coast for sale. The rich people at Tunis, who do not like to take several wives, will often purchase some of those females, who if they fall into dislike are disposed of again to others at a less price.

After

After what I had seen and heard, I resolved to stay no longer on the coast, so I returned to Naples.

LETTER XL.

Naples, May 30th, 1794.

JUST as I had finished my dinner this day, the farmer whom I before mentioned came to the inn, enquiring for me; he followed the servant into the room where I was sitting, and with him his daughter, who was dressed a little more decently than when I first saw her, having a short jacket, one petticoat, and a coarse towel over her head, the usual holiday dress of such country-women. Having asked him what his errand was, he said, that according to my orders he had brought his daughter; astonished at his impudence, I replied, that I had never given him the least encouragement, but only promised to get a servant's place for her, if it lay in my power. He persisted to say that he should not have brought her, unless I had
agreed

agreed to it. Conceiving that his errand was to obtain a little money, I went into my bedroom to take out a trifle to give him, and returning, found that he had taken off her cloaths, and twirling her about, said, that she was a proper model for me to copy from, since I was, as he said, a painter.* He then ran from the house, and left me in a situation more awkward than I can describe. I told the girl to put on her cloaths, after which she related that her father had been turned out of his house for not having paid the rent, and that her parents were come into the city to seek employment. I ordered the servant to call a friend of mine, a lawyer, to consult with him how I was to act, but he being gone to his country-seat and not to return till the next day, I desired to speak with the mistress of the house, of whom I begged to permit the young woman to lay with one of her maids till my friend came from the country. The

* This I suppose arose from my sketching some views while at his cottage. It is very common for parents to let out their female children to painters and sculptors as models, the parents first stripping them naked for approbation of the artist.

landlady

landlady was for sending her out of the house, but the poor creature's tears made such impression on her, that she consented to her staying.

The next day the lawyer being returned from the country paid me a visit, and said there was no remedy but to turn the girl into the street, or provide service for her; the latter he recommended, and would (if I approved of it) take her to his house, to which I most readily consented.

FURTHER TRAITS of the NEAPOLITANS.

I was remarking to my friend, that a late French author (Dupati) had made a calculation that the number of assassinations in the Neapolitan state, including Sicily, amounted to more than three thousand; and that the number of public executions for that crime did not exceed five persons; at which the mind is horribly shocked.

“ There are few assassinations (said my
 “ friend) among the higher class, as jealousy
 “ has been long since done away, the husband
 “ and wife pursuing their inclinations with
 “ mutual

“ mutual consent; and it is very common for
 “ the lady to fix on her cicisbeo before mar-
 “ riage, who is known as such by the husband
 “ at the wedding.”

The generality of murders are committed by the common people from a desire of pleasure, and revenge, who finding an asylum in the church, and inactivity in the police, ~~make~~ the stiletto the executor of the law.

There can be no excuse for the former Neapolitan sovereigns having permitted such horrid deeds with impunity; but the disorder is arrived to such a degree of magnitude, that the present King has not courage to attempt a reform. Whatever weaknesses he is charged with, they might in a great measure be attributed to a neglect of his education, he having been abandoned by his father at the age of fifteen to the care of an old ignorant Spaniard, who taught him to play with the crown instead of wearing it with royal dignity.

LETTER

LETTER XLI.

Naples, June 3d, 1794.

WHILE making my observations round the bay of Naples, I was sorry to see such poverty and misery, which is generally the case in places where there are no manufactures. The common peasants live in an abject and uncivilized manner. You will seldom see more than one miserable bed for a family, unless very numerous; and it is common for two or three grown-up children to lay with their parents; and if any of them die, they are carried to a pit and covered over without a tear from the survivors, as it makes one less to share their wretched morsel. Under these circumstances, I was not surprised at being told that incest and worse crimes are committed among themselves, perhaps without feeling the enormity, there being no police among the mountains so distant from towns, to restrain them from such offences.

Thus all parental and filial ties are done away, and shame is unfelt by repetition.—What a wonderful change among people on the same spot with those of the ancient Romans

mans, who were famed for protecting the virtues of their families, and for the strict punishment of their vices ! And what a scene do such miserable beings present to us, compared with those in Naples, who roll in excess of voluptuousness !

Among other curiosities which I picked up on the coast, was a lachrymal vase very highly varnished outside, and so I suppose it is within. This latter I shall not look for, as it is closely stopped by the same kind of earth that the vessel is made of, and varnished in the same manner. Its shape is like a jug or vase, and may contain about one ounce. These in ancient times were held in the hand to catch the tears of those weeping over their deceased relations or friends, and when full, were put into the same tomb with the body, or into the urn, in case the corpse had been reduced to ashes.

The ties of affection were then as they ought to be, but it is far otherwise now ; for the mode of taking the corpse so soon after death, and the method of interment of friends and relations, without any lamentation, conspire soon to blot out the remembrance of them.

LETTER

LETTER XLII.

Naples, June 5th, 1794.

YESTERDAY I had the honour to dine with Sir William Hamilton, it being his Majesty's birth-day. At the same entertainment were also the English nobility and gentry then at Naples. The manner in which Sir William and his accomplished consort received and entertained the company was truly polite. The dinner was magnificent, with a number of the most excellent dishes dressed in high taste. In the third course were the best fruits then in season, with a profusion of ice-creams in various forms, for the making of which the Neapolitans are allowed to be famous. After dinner, the company were shewn into other apartments, where card-tables were placed for those who chose to play, and her ladyship informed us, there would be a ball in the evening, at which the Queen would be present under another name; and although she could not avoid being distinguished by her person, we were desired not to acknowledge her rank. The ball began at nine o'clock, and at twelve
a letter

a letter was brought to Lady Hamilton from the Queen, written in French by her Majesty's own hand, expressing her sorrow that some sudden melancholy event* had prevented her from being there, but she hoped that the song, (*God save great George our King*) which her ladyship had promised should be sung in her presence, would not be omitted on account of her absence. On which her ladyship desired the company to repair to the ball-room, and the song being sung we all joined in chorus.

This morning I waited on Sir William, and he conducted me to his lady's apartments, where her musick-master was giving her lessons; by which means I had the pleasing satisfaction to hear her ladyship sing several favourite airs, and she permitted me to read the letter that she had received last night from the Queen, her majesty expressing "her disappointment at not being able to be present
" to see the most loyal subjects celebrating
" the birth-day of the best of Kings."

* Her Majesty had that evening received an express of the cruel execution at Paris of the amiable Princess Elizabeth.

LETTER XLIII.

Naples, June 6th, 1794.

AFTER my return from the excursion, I made round the bay of Naples, and conversing on the subject of antiquities, which I had seen, Donna Maria prevailed on her husband to make the same tour, if I would accompany them; to which I consented, and he has persuaded the lady to whom he is *cavalier servante*, to be of the party.

A friend of his has lent him his barge with a silk awning over the stern; mattraffes are put on board in case of sickness; provisions also are lain in, and we are to row off for the bay of Misenum early to-morrow morning. The ladies, never having been so far as Misenum by sea, are in high spirits with expectation of seeing the antiquities on that coast.

LETTER

LETTER XLIV.

Naples, June 9th, 1794.

I LAY at my friend's house the 6th instant, in order to be in readiness to set out on our little voyage to the bay of Naples. The husband rose very early to fetch the lady he attended, and while his wife and I were taking something for breakfast, he drove up to the door, and running hastily up stairs, informed us that his female friend had been taken ill the preceding night, and that he was going in his coach to the further end of the town for her physician. His wife seemed greatly disappointed, asking her husband what was to be done. He begged to know if I had any objection to accompany his wife, as the boat and every thing was ready, for it was, he said, impossible for him to go with us under the present circumstance. Such proposal I could not but accept, for which he thanked me, and his wife's coach being at the door, we drove to the mole of the harbour, and entering into the barge we rowed off.

We

We had not proceeded three miles when a little breeze of wind springing up, and the sea being agitated, the lady became very sea-sick. The mattraffes being laid, and the curtains drawn, I placed her on them. She begged for God's sake to be landed on any part of the coast, but I ordered the sailors to pull away for Misenum, it being the most convenient place for landing.

We arrived at Misenum at ten o'clock, but the lady not being able to stir, I directed the sailors to haul the boat on the beach, and ordered her servant to make some strong coffee, utensils for that purpose having been put on board, of which I gave her a basin, and soon after she fell into a sound sleep. Awaking about an hour afterwards, she apologized for the trouble I had taken. We then left the boat, accompanied by her servant and one of the sailors to carry the provisions.

The lady was so weak that we could not, without stopping, get further than the portico of the ancient amphitheatre over Misenum. We had here a most charming prospect, being opposite to Mount Vesuvius, and only separated from it by the bay of Naples.

It was now twelve o'clock, and Donna Maria consented to walk from thence to a farm-house about a mile distant, where I had received some civility in my former ramble on that coast. She holding by my arm, we took the main road: "This (said I) is the very road through which the young Pliny conducted his tender mother in the year of Christ 79, to preserve her from the destructive shower of stones and ashes which issued from Vesuvius, in the terrible eruption at that period, by which his uncle perished near Stabia." "I have read (said the lady) a translation into Italian from the Latin of the two letters that young Pliny wrote to his friend Cornelius Tacitus, describing that dismal event. The filial love of that great young man was very different from children of the present time, who think that they are brought into the world for themselves alone." "I hope, Madam, (said I) it will not be your case." "I have reason, sir, to think it will not, and I shall account myself happy if my children in growing up retain the like affection for me, as I now have for my parents, who have been good to me beyond description."

After

After sitting down twice on the road we arrived at the farm-house; and the farmer's wife, her husband not being at home, invited us in, and shewed a pleasing inclination to accommodate us. We went up stairs, and from the window of a tolerable chamber there was a fine view of the Mediterranean sea, and of the islands of Caprea, Procita, Ischia, and Nifida. We desired permission of the farmer's wife to spread our cloth and eat some dinner, which she not only complied with, but helped to arrange the table. The servant brought up the basket of provisions; one of the dishes was a pigeon-pie, with maccaroni, oysters, and truffles, which he carried down to the kitchen fire to warm, and of which I ate very heartily. It was not so with the poor lady, she ate but little, preferring some coffee, which was immediately made, and after drinking it, she begged the farmer's wife to permit her to repose on the bed. The honest woman soon laid on a pair of sheets, and advised the lady to undress herself, and while she was preparing to go into bed, the servant carried down the provisions. I then left the room, and told him to take out from the basket those

things which were allotted to himself and the sailor, and go to dinner.

As soon as the lady was in bed I went to her chamber, and finding her inclined to sleep, left her in charge of the good hostess, and began my walk, promising to return at six o'clock. In this I was not so very punctual, as I had gone further than I first proposed, and did not come back to the farm-house till eight o'clock in the evening, when I found the lady still in bed, but very uneasy, fearing that I had lost my way. As she had no desire to get up, and begging to know what I had seen, I sat down by her bed-side, and related to her that I had seen on the declivity of a hill two rows of tombs, placed over each other, but so defaced by time as to leave very few vestiges to tell who were the ancient inhabitants of those marble palaces.

On proceeding further, I entered into the Elysian fields formed by the ancient Romans, who chose this spot for retirement in the sultry heat of summer. Here, whilst Generals, Consuls, Emperors, sung and danced, trembling nations dried up their tears, and for a moment enjoyed life.

I have

I have seen also the small remains of a vast croud of villas, where anciently the sound of warriors' trumpets gave way to the melodious notes of birds.

Near those villas, but distant from each other, are the melancholy ruins of the temples of Venus Genetrix, Diana, Mercury, and the remains of the baths of Nero.

I have also had a distant view of Baïa, and Puozzole, formerly dedicated to pleasure, where Cicero had a famous villa, for which his friends blamed him, as he might have built it in a more quiet retreat; and the philosopher Seneca, in travelling that road refused to sleep there even one night for fear of being infected by pleasure.

In my walk I saw Monte Nuovo, formed in one night by the eruption of a volcano; and at a distance I viewed the ruins of seven cities which once flourished on that coast.

I could not help frequently pausing on those fine places, which nature seemed to have pointed out to relax the Romans from their conquests, or to forget them.

At other places I saw ruined theatres, which were anciently filled with the great of Rome

and the beauties of Italy. And now, my good lady, having told you all that I have seen worthy of relating, I am heartily glad to see you in better health, and hope you will be able to partake of the supper, which I rejoice to see placing on the table; for I have no other apology to make to you for being absent so long. “The apology should be mine, (said the lady) for detaining you in this poor place, whereas, had it not been for me, we should have been better accommodated at my friend’s house at Baïa, which I hope we shall reach to-morrow night. The servant having laid the supper on a small table by the bed-side put an end to our compliments.

“The farmer’s wife (said she) has been remarkably attentive to me in your absence, but I could not prevail upon her or her husband to sup with us, though they promised to come after supper, and would be thankful for some of our wine.” They accordingly came, and the wife taking me into an adjoining room, said, if I could put up with a poor bed, it was there at my service, which I gladly accepted.

The

The next morning after breakfast, returning to the boat, I advised the lady, in order to avoid another sickness, to lay down on the bed under the awning; and we left Misenum. The sea being quite smooth, we stopt an hour only at Baïa, and then returned to Naples.

She now ordered her coach, and desired me to accompany her to her husband's friend. We found that lady somewhat recovered from her indisposition; and after Donna Maria had recounted to her husband our adventure, we returned home.

The more I see of this lady, the more I admire the goodness of her heart. Her attention to her children, and her unaffected love for her parents, are traits not common in this country; by which, and her charitable disposition, she gains the esteem and regard of all her acquaintance.

LETTER XLV.

Naples, June 11th, 1794.

ONE object of this and my other journies in Italy, was to make observations on commerce.

merce. The merchants here have a convenience of depositing in the custom-house, duty free, whatever goods they import, till they are sold or removed to other places: and on my going thither to see the manner of transacting business, I was frequently accosted by many of the principal native merchants, whom I had been accustomed to supply with woollen manufactures before I left England, requesting me to take their commissions for what goods they were in want of, and they were not a little disappointed at my informing them that I was not then in that line of business. They, however, shewed me much civility on account of our former commercial intercourse, as did also many of those in the inland towns with whom I had formerly corresponded. And as there is scarcely a trading place in Italy where I had not some connections of the kind, I found such acquaintances on various occasions very necessary.

LETTER

LETTER XLVI.

Naples, June 12th, 1794.

THE situation of this city is very pleasing, having before it a most extensive bay, with an open view of the Mediterranean, which the inhabitants believe to be the finest in the world.

Among the various things that strike the traveller in this metropolis, none is more unaccountable than the existence for so many years of those people called Lazzeroni. The number of them is supposed to be from twenty-five to thirty thousand. Some inhabit small houses in the worst end of the city; but the greater part of them sleep at night in the open streets or in the porches of houses. A few, I am told, have occupations, but of the lowest kind; others live by small pilfering, and picking the pockets of those who have occasion to pass through the streets they principally inhabit; and a stranger having his pocket picked had better silently put up with the loss, than make any attempt to recover his property.

A few

A few years since, when the King and Queen were going to Vienna, on their passing through this city, their carriage was stopped by a concourse of those Lazzeroni, who, after assuring their Majesties that the city should remain tranquil during their absence, quietly dispersed; on the return of the royal family the Lazzeroni again stopped their carriage, testifying the highest joy on their arrival.

I do not find that they have any quantity of arms among them, and whether it be from long custom establishing their existence, from fear, or insignificancy, I do not know, but certain it is that they are a very large body of people, more to be feared than otherwise, and it is imagined by some that they receive private pay from those of a superior rank.

Determining to leave the city, I waited on Sir William Hamilton, who furnished me with a passport for my journey, and as it was my intent to go by the way of Caserta, Lady Hamilton gave me a letter to Mrs. Greffer, wife of the Queen's gardener there; you will therefore soon hear from me on my journey towards home.

The

The lady who was so kind as to live in my house at Leghorn* in my absence has written to me her intention of going into the country during the hot months, and wishes me to return, or to appoint somebody to occupy the house in her stead.

LETTER XLVII.

Naples, June 13th, 1794.

SOME particular business preventing me from proceeding on my journey towards Rome so soon as I intended, I this day paid another visit to Vesuvius, and dined with a friend at Torre del Greco, on the road to Calabria.—After dinner we took a walk to a Capuchin convent near that city, and in a discourse with one of the friars, Father de Patrizza, a learned man, who had made observations on the various phenomena of the mountain; he told me that many of the wells in the environs had suddenly become dry, and that for several

* Mrs. Barry, authoress of *Maria*, a Persian slave.

days

days past the sun and moon had an uncommon reddish colour, and a very dense vapour had surrounded Vesuvius a small distance below its crater, and that he had the preceding night felt a smart shock of an earthquake, attended with hollow murmurings in the mountain, which he thought to prognosticate some extraordinary convulsions.

Returning to Naples I called on my friend at Portici, who told me that the inhabitants of Resina, situated at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, and over the ancient buried town of Herculaneum, had heard the night before a rumbling noise in the bowels of the mountain; and that he, by the help of his electrometer, had perceived for some days past that the atmosphere round and over the mountain was highly charged with electric fluid. He also said that he had felt last night and early this morning some shocks of earthquake, which I told him must have been the same that I had felt at Naples. Such shocks he said, had been also lately felt in the Campagna Felice, and that the sky over the mountain the preceding evening, for some hours, had been very clear, but was afterwards covered with black clouds.

Having

Having communicated to him what the Capuchin friar had told me, we took a walk close to the base of the mountain, and entering a cottage, whose inhabitants he knew, we found them frightened at the rumbling noise which they had a few minutes before heard. We went with the cottager to his small garden close to the house, and sitting down on the ground with our backs against the base of the mountain, we not only heard the murmurings which he had described, but felt the earth under us tremble like shaken jelly.

It being now dark, we got up, and walking towards his house at Portici, we perceived the atmosphere suddenly enlightened, and looking back on Vesuvius we saw a large globe of fire thrown out from its crater to a vast height, which bursting, illuminated sparkles streamed from it in its fall. A second and third globe, though much larger, succeeded each other, and the electric matter, after the bursting of the globes, was more vivid than the former.

From these collected circumstances we began to entertain ideas that something extraordinary would soon issue from this immense Chimney of Nature, the circumference of which
must

must be more than twelve miles; the height from the base to the top of the cone not much less than four thousand feet: the depth under the base no mortal can fathom.

It beginning to be late I took leave of my friend, and came to Naples.

LETTER XLVIII.

Rome, June 23d, 1794.

IN my letter of the 12th instant from Naples, you see me determined to leave that city, but really quite out of humour with Mount Vesuvius, for not having treated me with any thing more than insignificant smoke during my two months abode in its vicinity.

After I had dispatched that letter to you, I went to bed, where I was alarmed with a smart shock of an earthquake, which was repeated a few minutes after, with undulatory tremblings from east to west. I soon fell into a sleep, but was roused at four in the morning of the 13th by another much more severe. I then went to the window, from whence I
observed

observed dense clouds, and the atmosphere in the north-east quarter seemed highly charged with inflammable matter ready for explosion. That night and the next day several earthquakes succeeded each other with the same undulatory motion from east to west. The house I lived in being in that direction from Vesuvius, I very distinctly heard some hollow rumblings between my abode and the mountain, like distant thunder; by all which I was induced to conceive that the earthquakes had been occasioned by some grand but hidden operation in the bowels of Vesuvius. On Sunday the 15th instant, at ten o'clock at night there was another earthquake, but still more violent than any of the preceding, which made my iron bedstead rattle, and the folding window suddenly opening with the trembling of the house, I sensibly heard a dreadful subterraneous roaring, as if in a deep cavern.—My head being affected at the same time with a volatile smell of sulphur, and observing the air much agitated and inflamed, exhibiting frequent flashes of lightning, I must own I expected something more than smoke would soon issue from Vesuvius. A few minutes
after,

after, I was alarmed with a most tremendous burst or explosion, much more terrible than that which I had heard from my window at Leghorn last year, when the *Scipio*, a French ship of 74 guns, blew up in the bay of that city. I was not long in doubt of the cause, as the people in the streets were running and crying that *Vesuvius* was on fire, and that the sea was rising. Many of the inhabitants betook themselves with their families to the high mountain near the castle of St. Elmo, while others ran for safety into the open places of the city, which were quite illuminated by the inflamed sky over the mountain.

I did not leave my bed till I found the servants and all other lodgers had quitted the house, which was in a continual trembling, but not so severe as before the explosion.—Finding my situation become more critical, together with the dismal and unintelligible jargon and cries of the people in the streets, I dressed myself and went out.

I ran first for safety to the *Largo Castello*, being the greatest square in the city; but the confusion already there, by means of a vast crowd of people, horses and coaches crammed together,

together, was so great, and the heat of the air being increased by so many thousand bodies closely assembled, I preferred going to the mole of the harbour, which had been abandoned by every one else from fear of being drowned by an inundation of the sea. As I had no such apprehensions after the mountain was on fire, I seated myself on a stone (the parapet wall of the mole serving me for a table) with a pencil in my hand, and being only separated from the front of the mountain by a narrow part of the Bay of Naples, I was in a fine situation uninterruptedly to behold and make observations on the grand and surprising object then before me.

Towards eleven o'clock several large volcanos were opened midway between the base and top crater of Vesuvius, which were in the tremendous operation of disgorging the liquid matter that had been long boiling in the bowels of the mountain. The vast light from those enormous fires being strongly reflected from the smooth surface of the sea, was too vivid for a continued view, and I was obliged to veil my eyes with an handkerchief.

The immense flowing of the lava from those large volcanos being united into a broad river, ran more than a mile horizontally along the mountain, while from them and the top of the cone burning unliquified matter was thrown to a prodigious height, appearing like fountains of fire. At twelve o'clock the mountain became so convulsed as to cause a terrible bellowing like the rumbling of most violent thunder, without any intermission, during the space of two hours. I then, indeed, gave way to more fearful sensations, as the sea (though in a dead calm) was several times lifted up round the Mole; and I should have run off, if it had not suddenly sunk to its former level. Although it was dark in other parts of the sky, yet the vast light in the atmosphere over the mountain afforded a compleat view of all objects between me and the blazing fires, which were awful beyond expression.

At one o'clock in the morning of the 16th, the affrighted inhabitants had formed themselves into parochial processions, clothed in penitential habits, and carrying crucifixes, were invoking protection. As they were not
then

then under any fear of the sea rising, each procession came to the place where I was sitting, and having bawled their wild and idolatrous hymns* to St. Januarius, they progressively returned, to make room for those behind; but my mind was impressed with more serious thoughts.

In frantic garb, while bigots join
Discordant strains with sounds divine
To avert th' impending rod;
Oh! humbly let our voices raise
In cheerful hymns of grateful praise,
For goodness of our God.

These votaries to fear copiously bleeding under crowns of sharp thorns, seeing no abatement to the fury of the mountain, had nearly worked themselves into a frenzy, which made my seat at the Mole very disagreeable; but I was determined, if possible, to remain and pursue my remarks on that wonderful phenomenon of nature, which I did with much attention, and in my next I shall communicate them to you.

* The two last lines of each verse contained a request that Jesus Christ would petition St. Januarius to stop the fury of the mountain.

LETTER XLIX.

Rome, June 24th, 1794.

STILL attentive to the progress, variations, and effects of this astonishing convulsion of nature, I observed at three o'clock in the morning of the 16th, the noise from the centre of the mountain was dreadfully augmented; a most violent concussion in the air made every thing around me tremble, and the electric fire was flying off the upper crater in various directions. The cause of this new event (though then unknown to me) was occasioned by the falling of a great part of the top of Vesuvius into its burning centre. The vast heaps of earth, and huge pieces of rocks, being prevented by a natural cause from mingling with the fiery fluid, were violently thrown out again, and rolling down the back of the mountain, did considerable damage to the two large cities of Somma and Ottaviano.

By this time the blazing river of lava which flowed along the mountain was so swollen that it burst through its horizontal boundary,
and

and falling down the precipice, formed a fiery cascade more than half a mile wide, overthrowing or carrying with it churches, convents, villas, and whatever else stood in its way; then passing over and destroying a great space of delightful country, overwhelmed the rich and beautiful city of Torre del Greco!* and continuing its furious course over the beach, rushed dreadfully hissing into the sea, where it formed a peninsula. At this period I perceived the sea rise, and dash against the walls of the mole where I was sitting, which would have made me retire, had I not known the cause.

At four o'clock the roaring of the mountain for some time abated, and the lava from the burning caverns apparently ceased to flow; in which interval the electric flashes over the mountain were beautifully brilliant in various zig-zag forms, which again became invisible as soon as the volcanos began to force out their boiling contents. At five o'clock the subterraneous batteries commenced their usual

* This city was large, adorned with many elegant buildings, and contained about eighteen thousand inhabitants.

thunder,

thunder, and the sight of the mountain was suddenly intercepted by immense columns of ashes* which issued from thence. One of those columns, being finer and lighter than the rest, was soon conveyed over the spot where I was sitting. This brought to my recollection Pliny's letter to Cornelius Tacitus, describing the eruption of Vesuvius in the year of Christ 79, when his uncle was suffocated at Stabia, (now called Castello mare) as I mentioned in my letter of the 21st of May, when he and his mother, were in imminent danger of being buried under a shower of scorix and ashes at Misenum. Thereupon, taking up my drawings,† I thought it prudent to quit the Mole and return home; which could not easily be effected, as I had to pass the numerous processions before-mentioned, composed chiefly of females with dishevelled

* Had these columns fallen on Naples, instead of immersing into the sea, that city would have become one common grave for the whole of its inhabitants, as formerly was the case with the ancient cities of Pompeia and Stabia.

† The principal of which was taken when the river of lava was running down the mountain over Torre del Greco, which I shaded and coloured a few days afterwards, while the blaze was warm in my imagination. This drawing I shall preserve, and at a future time have it engraved.

hair, whose voices were disagreeably hoarse, by inhaling the falling ashes while continually singing hymns to their *protecting* Saint Januarius. I however got through them with great difficulty, prudently dropping some money into their boxes, the contents of which they told me were for religious purposes, and I happily arrived unhurt at my inn, where I was glad to take some refreshment.

LETTER L.

Rome, June 25th, 1794.

HAVING to pass through so many thousands of people, in my way from the Mole to my lodging, it was near seven o'clock in the morning before I got home. On entering my chamber (the window having been left open) I found the floor covered with ashes more than three inches deep; and after shaking off those that had fallen on the bed-clothes, I lay down, but with no hopes of sleeping, as the hollow roaring of Vesuvius, the cries of so many people who had been reduced

duced to misery by the loss of their property at Torre del Greco, and my mind having been kept so long on a full stretch of various ideas, were sufficient causes to prevent me from taking any rest. My eyes also were become very painful, by the hot sulphureous particles floating in the air while I was at the Mole;* although for the most part of the time they were shaded with an handkerchief.

At two o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, seeing the shape of the mountain very much altered, I got into a coach, with an intent to get as near as possible to it, in order to examine the devastations that had been made the preceding night, but on coming close to the base of Vesuvius, I could perceive nothing distinctly; the atmosphere being very dark, occasioned by a new and sudden fall of hot ashes, and the volcanic electricity flashing about the cone, made it dangerous to continue there any longer. The coachman also desired me to return, as he had no screen left, the umbrella which I had lent him being burnt full of holes.

* The unhappy effects of which I still retain.

On returning to Naples, I was in an unpleasant situation, as a vast number of processions were advancing, carrying in a solemn manner the *silver* head of St. Januarius, with its face towards Vesuvius, and invoking him by hymns to save them from destruction. Each company having performed their religious ceremonies on a bridge midway between the city and the mountain, returned in like order; so that, from the passing and repassing of more than forty thousand people, it being impossible to proceed, I turned about, and drove towards Torre del Greco, but was prevented from closely approaching it by the heat of the lava over and around that city. The high road leading to Calabria being also stopped up by the lava, hindered me from going any further; and meeting with a gentleman in his carriage who had been on the same errand with myself, he advised me to return, as he had been attacked by some villains, who had gone thither under pretence of assisting the distressed. I therefore returned home, and taking some refreshment, went to bed.

LETTER

LETTER LI.

Rome, June 26th, 1794.

BEING prevented on the 16th from approaching Torre del Greco on the land side, I hired a boat the next morning, and crossing the bay, went to that part of the shore nearest to it. I found the beach occupied by the inhabitants, with a small remnant of the property they had saved; and standing on the promontory* or peninsula formed in the sea by the lava, I viewed with wonder the destructive mass which then covered that late beautiful city, where I had the week before spent a very agreeable day with a Neapolitan family. On part of the shore were driven great numbers of dead fish, that had been killed by the hot lava running into the sea, which occasioned a disagreeable smell.

On conversing with the people, I could not discover that any great number of lives

* This promontory of lava stood twelve feet above the surface of the water, was more than one thousand feet in breadth, and extended six hundred feet into the sea.

had been lost, as they had time to make their escape; but it appeared wonderful to me that the river of lava should take a direction over that city, when by passing either to the right or left no great damage would have been done. Thus it seemed as if that particular spot* was doomed to destruction; but as it is commodiously situated near the beach, I have no doubt another city will be built over that now buried, as soon as the lava becomes cooled and hard enough to admit the foundations; and some of the inhabitants then on the beach told me they were determined to build again on that spot, if they could get assistance from their friends or the state, as the cold lava would serve as stones for building the walls.

I returned to Naples much lighter in purse than I went, for I think it impossible that any human being could be among so many people thus suddenly plunged into extreme want and misery, without contributing to their relief.

* With more than three thousand acres of vineyards, where the *Lachryma Christi*, and other choice wines, were before made.

I shall

I shall now conclude my plain and interesting narrative of this sublime phenomenon. The dreadful roar of the convulsed mountain vomiting flaming volcanic matter from many wide gaping furnaces; a river of vivid lava gliding one mile across the mountain; and its destructive fall in a blazing cascade, half a mile in breadth, while inflammable matter was darting round the mountain in a variety of shapes; formed a combination of awful circumstances, in relating which I have been so particular through hopes of having your philosophical opinion on these wonderful operations of divine order.

LETTER LII.

Rome, June 30th, 1794.

BEING returned from Torre del Greco, I breakfasted and left Naples on my way to Caserta, where the King and royal family often reside; it being in the midst of the wheat-harvest, and the labourers not able to work from the continual falling of the ashes, were
all

all out in procession on the high-roads, fastened in couples with large cords, a ceremony which I could not understand. Those at Caserta* passed in front of the palace, while their majesties and family were on their knees in their balcony joining with the people in their hymns.

I went that afternoon to the Queen's garden, about a mile from Caserta, where I was kindly entertained (through the recommendation of Lady Hamilton) at the house of the director of that delightful spot, though then covered with ashes, which were still descending so thick as to obstruct the sight beyond twenty yards. The continual roar also of Vesuvius was at times frightful, although we were close shut up in a good house sixteen miles from it. On the 19th, I left the Queen's garden, and prosecuted my journey.

At Capua the shower of ashes was diminished, and at Gaeta they had entirely ceased to fall;

* This ancient city rose from the ruins of Seticula, near which a most obstinate battle was fought between the Samnites and Romans under the Consul Valerius, when the former were defeated, and the Romans established a colony, declaring they had never met with so hardy an enemy.

and

and here for the first time since the 15th inst. I saw the sun with inexpressible pleasure.—The 20th, I lay at Terracina,* where I again heard the roar of Vesuvius; which was also heard by many others the same night on the Pontine marshes, which are about a hundred miles distant by land from Naples, though by sea not more than forty.

By the preceding narrative you will perceive that I was a close and constant spectator of the irruption of Mount Vesuvius, and also of the effects produced by it; of all which I wrote Sir William Hamilton, conceiving that he would, from his philosophic observations and collected materials, publish an interesting account of this most surprising event. In reply he said, that no single description could convey an exact account of the wonderful scenes to which we had been witnesses, thanking me at the same time for my observations on the subject. He also advised me not to make myself uneasy at any unjust reports on my affair with Mr. M——, as whenever

* Formerly one of the ports for the Roman fleet.

it came on the carpet, he would speak of it in terms to my greatest honour; and as I find by your letters you know what it alludes to, I shall in my next further explain it.

LETTER LIII.

Rome, July 1st, 1794.

FINDING by your letters you have been imperfectly informed of an affair between myself and Mr. M——, which made no small noise at Naples, and which information I suppose you must have received from a friend of his, who is since gone to England through Switzerland; therefore I feel myself inclined to let you know how the matter really was, and though I cannot do it without bringing to view some letters favourable to myself, yet finding my character misrepresented after the settlement, my own honour calls upon me to lay before you copies of the same.

Mr. M—— contracted a bad debt in Scotland with one Duncan to a large amount, which in fact he alone ought to have paid.

Lord

—Lord Gardenstone* being at Pisa for his health, I had the honour to be well acquainted with him, and he having taken the trouble to look into this affair, gave me a letter to his friend in Scotland to do every thing in his power to bring the matter to a settlement; and spoke of me with more warmth than perhaps I merited. I inclosed his Lordship's letter under one from myself to his friend, to which I received the following answer:

“ I received your letter inclosing one from
 “ my Lord Gardenstone, with your vouchers
 “ against D——, which contain facts suffi-
 “ cient to gain your cause. I must tell you
 “ that Mr. M—— has acted extremely ill; he
 “ has advised D—— by letters not to accept
 “ your bills, and has sent him false arguments
 “ for not paying what he owes; this is acting
 “ a bad part, and what every honest man will
 “ detest him for.”

The foregoing letter I carried to Pisa for Lord Gardenstone's perusal, and John Udny, esq; our Consul-General at Leghorn, being

* One of the Lords of Sessions in Scotland, of a most benevolent character.

with

with him, we entered into the affair between myself and M——, and he also wrote the following letter to his friend in Scotland:*

“ Being much concerned at the cruel treatment which Mr. Brooke, one of the members of our factory, has met with in a mercantile transaction, by means of Mr. M——, I beg that you would exert yourself in assisting this very worthy and much-injured gentleman, so as to obtain for him by law or compromise the value of his effects, which are unlawfully kept from him.”

The payment of another large sum of money which M—— owed to me was referred to the arbitration of the Rev. Mr. Hall, chaplain to the British factory of Leghorn, and to Mr. Renner, the oldest member of that body; and Mr. M—— confessing his inability to repay the whole sum, (by my intreaty to the referees) they awarded that he should pay

* Since my return to England from Italy in March 1798, I have discovered that Mr. M—— has written from Naples to a number of people in England, misrepresenting (to my prejudice) the affair between us. This I trust will apologize for my now inserting a letter of private concern, as some of the readers of this book may probably be those to whom Mr. M—— has written.

a very small part only of the money which he owed, on condition that he should use every means in his power to assist me in recovering what was due to me from D——.

The referees, discovering that he had acted otherwise, would have called him to a severe account, but he left Leghorn and went to Naples; on which they made a voluntary declaration to serve me in case of need on any future day, which they also ordered to be copied into the factory-books; it being too long and uninteresting, I shall only give you an extract from the same.

“ We do further declare that it was owing
 “ to the great humanity of Mr. B—— that
 “ we did not in our award set forth more
 “ grossly the conduct of M——, for had we
 “ done so, it would have hindered him from
 “ doing Mr. B—— any disservice; but we see
 “ our error by this too great lenity, for instead
 “ of M—— being of any use to Mr. B——
 “ in the recovery of his effects from D——,
 “ we are firmly convinced that he has left no
 “ stone unturned, not only to prevent him
 “ from obtaining his effects, but has done
 “ every thing in his power to prejudice him.

“ Whereas,

“Whereas, we declare the conduct of Mr.
“B—— has been strongly marked with can-
“dour, integrity, honour, and generosity.”

(Signed) THOMAS HALL.

“*Leghorn.* GEORGE RENNER.”

You will see by my letter of the 24th of March, that I was charged with a packet to deliver to the British envoy at Naples. On my arrival there, I demanded of M—— the payment of what he owed to me, but instead of complying, I received threats, and was advised by some friends to take care of my person; his single attack did not in the least intimidate me, though I used precautions against those offered by assassins, which are easily procured in that country.

At length Sir William Hamilton kindly undertook the settlement, which, though productive of a small sum in proportion to the debt, I accepted, being convinced that what Sir William was pleased to do was purely to serve me, as he thought from delay it might be worse; and at my leaving Naples he declared to the proconsul, Mr. Davenport, that my conduct in every point was most honourable, and he desired it might be so reported.

I had a full verdict in my favour at Edinburgh before the Lords of Sessions against D——, but he and M—— infamously advised *another* person in England to attach the money, and by that means prevented it from being paid to me; and while I was sending vouchers from Leghorn to prove the illegality of the attachment, D—— was thrown into gaol for demanding payment from the underwriters for the loss of a ship and cargo which never existed, and became insolvent; on which I received a letter from Lord Gardenstone, advising me, if my business would permit, to come immediately to Edinburgh, having no doubt of my recovering heavy damages against *him* who had falsely deposed in order to substantiate his claim on my effects; his lordship adding, that although he would not be on the Bench, at trying the cause, yet, as I had been so basely treated, he would do every thing in his power to assist me, as the claimant's deposition was false, and the action totally illegal. As you are now in possession of the whole transaction, I give you permission to shew this letter to whom you please.

P. S. Yesterday,

P. S. Yesterday, at the physical lecture, I was presented with a university degree of M. D. If diplomas denote the abilities of the man of physic, I am well furnished with such honours. Fevers being very prevalent here, I paid particular attention to the various causes of that malady, and the method of treating it, which is different from ours, and so efficacious, and pleasant to the patient, that I wish to see it adopted in England.

LETTER LIV.

Rome, July 2d, 1794.

SOON after my arrival here, I paid a visit to the ladies whom I mentioned in my letter from Terracina, and Signora Carolina introduced me to her husband as her *cavalier servante*, at a time when she was unprovided with any other cicisbeo. He thanked me for my particular civility to his wife, requested I would stay to dinner, and gave me a general invitation to his house.

This lady has *conversations* in her apartments almost every evening, and though the company

company were not of the first nobility, yet many of them were of distinction, and agreeable and polite in their behaviour. She had three rooms open on such occasions; and gentlemen who were not fond of cards found a full scope of other entertainment in the conversation of agreeable women, generally about thirty in number, many of whom were handsome, easy, and graceful.

Walking one evening in the rooms with Signora Carolina, and relating to her what I had heard and seen at a breakfast given by a young couple the morning after marriage; 'We are not (said she) the only people condemned for freedom of speech on *particular* subjects, but I perceive that your noble countrywoman Lady Wortley Montague writes most freely on the custom of the Turkish ladies, which she witnessed on going into the bagnio apartments at Adrianople. So that your English ladies can talk and joke with as much freedom as we Romans.'—Cards being over, we were joined by Signor Pietro, her cicisbeo, to whom she repeated what we had been talking of, and also the discourse we had at her sister's house at Terracina,

racina, and my disliking the custom of ladies sleeping without body-linen. " Pardon me, " madam, (said I) I never made this enquiry " from any indecent idea, but to be informed " what advantages your delicate skins derived " from it." ' Being disencumbered from a ' *camicia*, (said she) we can easily remove the ' sheet, and our bodies then enjoy the external air, by which we prevent the great ' perspirations in hot weather; and by some- ' times using the cold bath* before we dress, ' are more capable of bearing the heat of the ' summer, and are better prepared for the ' change of air in the ensuing winter.'

* The chamber-bath which they use is very convenient, in shape something like a cradle without a head, with a handle at each end, standing on four legs sufficiently high to have a chafing-dish put under it; by which means they can have a tepid or hot bath whenever they please. It is made of copper well tinned within, and being thin and portable, is easily carried from one room to another; and if used for medical purposes, the patient is with great ease laid in it. Such families as cannot afford to buy may hire one for three-pence per day.

LETTER

LETTER LV.

Rome, July 3d, 1794.

HAVING in my last letter mentioned cool bathing, I will add that in some cases the water is made salt, like that of the sea; and those who use tepid or hot baths medically, have vinegar, brimstone, iron filings, and sometimes aromatic herbs, put into the water, according to the benefits proposed by such bathing; which I have often known to be attended with good effects.

I would give you some particulars of the Pope, but I know very little of his Holiness's private life, as (except on public occasions) he is very rarely seen, but he possesses a very good character. I once heard him perform high-mass in his chapel at Monte Cavallo, which he did with great dignity, his person being very graceful. I was also close to him a few days since on the octave of Corpus Christi; he was on his knees before the high altar of St. Peter's, with the cardinals ranged on each side of him. On this occasion about
thirty

thirty young women, mostly orphans, in plain decent habits, with satchels in their hands, came and knelt before the treasurer of the camera, who put into each of their bags a bank-note from sixty to an hundred crowns, according to their merit, to serve them as a dowry for their marriage, the intended bridegroom having been first approved of.

The host was then taken from the tabernacle by a bishop, who, being covered with a costly mantle, stands under a canopy of rich embroidery, supported on gilded poles carried by six or eight men; and at the toll of the great bell the procession of cardinals, prelates, and thousands of other nobility and gentry, (each with a lighted wax torch in his hand) proceed forward, and last of all the bishop who carries the host moves on; the Pope, habited as a private priest, walking close after, with a prelate on each side. This procession is closed by the Swiss or Papal guards, and many thousands of people crowding behind; who, passing through the church, go round the Vatican square, and return in the like order.

LETTER

LETTER LVI.

Rome, July 4th, 1794.

HOSPITALS for the sick in this city are supported by the state, and the physicians who attend them are paid in the like manner; the Director or provider of necessaries for the hospital, is generally a nobleman, who draws on the state for the expences.

Walking a few days since with some physicians in one of the principal hospitals, I visited the apothecary's apartment, and on examining the drugs,* found many of them of ordinary quality, and others which by age had lost their powers. The physicians were pleased that I had taken notice of those defects, and agreed in opinion with me that the success of prescriptions was frequently ineffectual from the bad quality of drugs. The apothecary, who heard our discourse, informed the Director what had passed; and

* Many kinds of drugs are brought from the Levant to Leghorn for sale, and as English merchants receive frequent commissions for them, I had the opportunity to know their good or bad qualities.

the next morning, while I was at breakfast with a relation of the Pope's secretary, he entered my chamber without ceremony, and in a haughty tone said he was come to demand satisfaction for the affront I had given him, by finding fault with his hospital. Surprised at this unexpected visit, I told him that the faults which I had remarked were only concerning the bad quality of the drugs, and that I would maintain the assertion; on which he suddenly left the room, muttering as he went out that he would seek revenge. The gentleman then at breakfast with me, having advised my not going out till his return, immediately left me, and informed the Pope's secretary of the circumstance, who communicated the same to his Holiness.

In the afternoon I received a message from the secretary, and was by him conducted to the apartment of the Pope, who interrogated me on my reasons for visiting the hospitals, and on the defects I had discovered in them. On being presented by the secretary with an order to visit whatever hospitals I thought proper in the Papal state, I approached his Holiness, to have the honour of kissing his
hand,

hand, which he held out for that purpose, and giving me his blessing, I departed. On returning to my lodgings, I found a soldier at the door, who informed me that he had orders to accompany me wherever I went; but the next day I dismissed him, as Signora Carolina had favoured me with a coach during my stay in Rome; and on going to her *conversation* that evening, I was informed that the apothecary's shops in all the hospitals were to undergo an immediate investigation.

LETTER LVII.

Rome, July 5th, 1794.

HAVING related one evening to Signora Faustina what I had seen near Vilatri, (as mentioned in my letter of the 14th of April) concerning the wretched situation of a family of cottagers; 'That, sir, (said the worthy lady) 'is not so much the defect of the laws, as the 'fault of the owners of the lands, who ought 'to see their own poor better provided for.' "You, madam, (said I) treat your poor bet-

" ter;

“ter; as I witnessed when I had the honour
 “to be at your villa in the mountains.”
 ‘There is no merit, sir, (she modestly replied)
 ‘in doing our duty;’ and turning the conversation to other topics, requested me to accompany herself and sister to a friend’s house on an eminence a few miles from Rome, which I reluctantly declined, as I had some business still unfinished.

The weather now is very hot, and all those persons who can afford it are preparing to leave Rome for a more airy situation; as are also the opulent inhabitants of other cities built on the plains. Although the air in Italy is certainly very healthy, yet, during the hot months, foreigners should retire to some higher spot, in order to avoid the foul air arising from low lands, so baneful in Italy. Such summer retirements I would recommend to those persons who cannot bear the burning heat in a flat country, in the choice of which the constitutions and complaints of invalids should be attended to; for which purpose I have made some observations for the benefit of such of my friends who come to Italy for the restoration of their health.

LETTER

of chirurgical preparations of human bodies of both sexes, where there are naked figures of men and women in wax as large as life, exceedingly well executed and coloured, which are, doubtless, of great use to the students of that profession.

The Gallery belonging to the Grand Duke is a most noble edifice, supported on each side by colonnades, under which are a variety of large shops; whence ascending by a most noble stair-case, you come to a vast gallery, which contains an immense number of pictures, statues, bustos, intaglios, and other works of eminent artists, regularly arranged in different apartments; the floors of which are carpeted in the winter, and a gentleman is appointed to shew and explain gratis this valuable collection.

The marble statue of Venus de Medicis, standing on a pedestal in the centre of one of the rooms, strikes every beholder with admiration; and very few can avoid walking several times round it, as if impelled to gaze on this copy of excellent beauty. By the gentle bend of the body, and position of the hands, the artist intended to shew that the
original

original was surprised when naked, by her attempting to cover what she wished to be concealed. Some critics have found a fault in this figure, from its short stature. Allowing it to be the workmanship of an ancient Greek, they ought to have known that in Eastern countries females are often married at the age of twelve years, and long before they are at full growth; therefore, to do justice to the chisel of the unknown great artist, we must conceive this to be the statue of such a young woman, who had been bathing previous to her marriage. Let those critics use their joint art to shew the present age that they can produce a figure more compleat; for it is far more exquisite than any other model of beauty—it is one entire grace. In following the lines of proportion from the face to the extremity, the whole symmetry is compleat. What sensibility is not touched in viewing this beauty! it moves, it warms:—the whole is Venus.

LETTER LX.

Leghorn, July 20th, 1794.

HAVING given you a small idea of the laws of Tuscany, I will tell you that the good order of the inhabitants is not kept up by a standing army, as the regular troops do not amount to more than four thousand; but perhaps there are more than five times that number of private spies among people of different ranks, who have a small pay for their services, and in case of the commission of any crime, the offender is easily detected. In those families who have two or more servants, one of them is certainly a spy, though unknown to the master. This is much disliked by foreigners, but I never saw it attended with any bad consequence; on the contrary, those who act with propriety are more secure, and need not be ashamed to have their actions known to the prince.

I also inform you that Leghorn is a free port, whither all merchants, even of countries at war with the state, may come and trade; and you may see every day on the Exchange

merchants

merc
coast
nean
all dr
make
The
thoug
lately
publi
was
Engli
order
He
chant
an illi
merce
to the
quant
since
for th
and by
so tha
dimini

* Thi
by his pe

merchants from Tangiers, and all along the coast of Africa to the top of the Mediterranean, and also those from Turkey, Greece, &c. all dressed in the habits of their country, which makes an appearance like a masquerade.—The commerce of course must be very great; though Mr. Roberts, an English gentleman lately here, wrongly asserts in his intended* publication that the commerce at Leghorn was lately much diminished, owing to the English merchants undermining each other in order to engross more business to themselves.

He is too severe respecting the British merchants, as many of them would scorn to do an illiberal act. In regard to the British commerce, Mr. Roberts is also mistaken, as prior to the war it had considerably increased. The quantity of Newfoundland fish is somewhat since lessened, owing to the Pope's permission for the natives to eat animal food in Lent, and by diminishing the number of vigil days; so that this part of commerce will increase or diminish according to the future injunctions

* This was copied by Miss Thrale from Mr. Roberts's book, by his permission, when he was at Tunis.

of his Holiness, which I fear will not be in favour of meagre days.

The general trade from Great-Britain and her colonies to Italy is of vast importance, as almost every article of English manufactures are imported.

The inside of genteel houses are adorned with English furniture, and East and West-India goods are greatly consumed by respectable families.

All kinds of British salted fish, both wet and dry, are imported in great abundance; and such families must be poor indeed who cannot purchase some for their meals on fast-days.

These importations into Italy in time of peace are brought by English ships, in number from eight to nine hundred yearly.

If it be computed that there are in all Italy no more than sixteen millions of souls, we may allow eight millions to be clothed in British manufactures, and that twelve millions of people, in some degree, have at their table three days per week some sort of British salted fish.

This commerce, so exceedingly beneficial, I hope will be watched and well protected during

ring the war, as no part of Europe (of equal magnitude) is of such consequence to England as this continent.

I have now been into all the principal ports in Italy, such as Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Venice, &c. The general character of the merchants is by no means liberal towards one another; for when one of them becomes insolvent from common causes, he might easily be relieved by the assistance of others; but it is notorious they suffer him to drop, in hopes of sharing the business he possessed. How different is this from the noble character of our bankers and merchants in England; who on such occasions come forward to the assistance of those that are in real want; and if a failure cannot be prevented, they most generously assist in raising them again.

LETTER LXI.

Leghorn, July 28th, 1794.

HAVING been once more through Italy, with pleasure I acquaint you that I revisited many of the hospitals, which I before men-

tioned, and found that those medical people to whom I had given copies of the informations that I had received from my Turkish friend, had adopted with success many of his prescriptions to patients in similar and other disorders; among which are, obstinate scurvy, severe rheumatism, convulsions, contraction of limbs, violent coughs, spitting of blood, dysentery, pains in the head, consumptions, female disorders, and desperate venereal cases.

I have known many patients in excruciating pains, happily relieved by well-prescribed opium; even in such cases, that drug is a most divine comfort; and it prepares the body for other medical practice.

No earthly plant, or beauteous flower,
Possess thy virtues, or the power
To occupy thy place;
The heavenly juice when from thee press'd
Gives to the head and heart sweet rest,
A boon to human race.

LETTER LXII.

Leghorn, August 1st, 1794.

HAVING heard some weak objections to opium, because it was sometimes taken as a
luxurious

luxurious dram, by the like parity of reasoning, inoculation for the small-pox might be objected to, as it was first adopted for purposes of the highest luxury; for it is well known that for some ages inoculation has been practised by the inhabitants of Georgia and Circassia in order to preserve the beauty of their female children. These two provinces on the Black Sea continue to pay a yearly tribute to the Grand Signor of a certain number of virgins, chosen by people sent by him for the purpose. The parents esteem it an honour to have their children so disposed of; for which reason they attend to the growth of them with much anxiety, and more so, as the price of their children is paid by the province according to their beauty. On their being brought to Constantinople, the Grand Signor makes choice of those he fancies for his own seraglio, and distributes the rest in presents to his state officers.

A noble lady of our country was the cause not many years since of bringing to England that happy secret of inoculation, which at first, like opium, was practised with fear and caution; but finding by experience its salutary effect,

effect, it is now universally adopted, by which long sickness is prevented, and many hundreds of lives are yearly saved, to the honourable memory of the noble personage who took great pains to introduce it into practice.—For although it behoves every individual in society to help their fellow creatures with part of what Providence has bounteously bestowed on them, yet it is a pleasing sensation to have merited well of our country, by introducing any new custom for the greater happiness of our fellow-citizens.

The Italian ladies are very subject to the disagreeable complaint of pimples and eruptions in the face; and as it is looked on as a great temporary imperfection of beauty, the cure is attended to with more anxiety than that of any other disorder. For this malady they are in possession of a remedy, which seldom fails of the desired effect, and of which, among my other observations, I have taken notice.

Debility of constitution is very prevalent in Italy, frequently in consequence of the immoderate intercourse of the sexes; and this is not lessened by that fashionable custom of intimacy

intimacy between married friends, which I have several times mentioned. For the debility occasioned by such excess, a remedy is pointed out by my Turkish friend, in my letter to you of the 5th of April last.*

You will be surpris'd at my informing you that the generality of the faculty in Italy pay very little attention in examining the patient concerning his constitution and method of living, which I shall always conceive to be predominant questions prior to my prescribing a remedy for any disorder; as it is well known that on different constitutions one medicine will not always act alike.

LETTER LXIII.

Leghorn, Sept. 16th, 1794.

ALTHOUGH I could not avoid speaking in very handsome terms of the noble lady who was the cause of bringing into usage inocula-

* See the last lines on the virtues of the poppy, page 43.

tion

tion for the small-pox, yet I cannot help observing that her ladyship's fears were ill-founded, when she said in one of her letters, " I should not fail to write to some of our " doctors very particularly about it, if I knew " any of them who had virtue enough to " destroy such a considerable branch of their " income," &c. I have a much higher opinion of the goodness of their hearts, and I believe they would readily give up any part of their profit, by adopting new medicines or practice, which they conceive would be beneficial to mankind; and there can be no stronger proof of their disinterestedness, than their unremitting attention to the poor, and to the sick in our hospitals in England.

I saw many things in the Italian hospitals that would be of great medical service in my own country; these, with other physical observations, I communicated to Dr. Patten,* whom I mentioned to you in my letter of the fifth of April last. He conceiving they would

* He married the sister of my cousin Peter Brooke, esq; of Mere, in Cheshire, and had two considerable church livings, one at Childrey in Berkshire, the other at Warrington in Lancashire.

be very useful to the public, said that (with my consent) he would publish them in one of the magazines; but death put a stop to his intentions, and his loss is much felt by all his friends, but by none more severely than myself. He was learned, and an elegant writer, and probably I shall publish all his letters to me; but as he makes mention in them of a lady related to him by marriage, on whose family I have some claim, I am inclined for the present to postpone the publication; yet whenever it appears, I am persuaded many persons will be highly pleased with the posthumous letters of this good man, who, without affectation, was possessed of such a pleasant religion as could not but tend to his leading a life of happiness.

LETTER LXIV.

Leghorn, Oct. 17th, 1794.

IN my last of the 16th ultimo, I informed you of a claim that I had to make, the particulars of which I will form into a case, and
 send

send you by the first person I can find going to Switzerland, (as it will be too heavy for the post) on which I shall desire your opinion; and as you do not now practise the law, I shall reserve payment of a fee till I see you in Italy.

You will observe how I lament the death of Dr. Patten, he being the principal evidence to the above-mentioned claim, which now can only be supplied by his letters; copies of some of them I have sent to the person on whom I have such claim, together with a few letters of my late cousin Jonas Langford Brooke, esq; to me; which will, I trust, convince his surviving affectionate brother that Dr. Patten was incapable of testifying to an unjust claim; and that I would not dare to mention it, unless founded on honour and truth. On these grounds, and to give you an idea of that worthy man's principles, I now send you paragraphs of some of his letters to me in Italy;* and although it may appear like vanity in me,

* I beg leave to apologise for troubling the reader with a perusal of private letters, but think it necessary from the same cause I mentioned in my letter from Rome, July 1st, 1794, inserted page 193.

I cannot

I cannot omit them for particular reasons. He was learned without pedantry, religious in his principles, a most tender husband, and sincere friend:—

“ I am now at Warrington, and the office
 “ of justice of peace is the least considerable
 “ of the little feathers in my cap. But I
 “ begin to find business of the legal kind to
 “ be too much for me; and both here and in
 “ Berkshire I pant after leisure and retirement
 “ in this evening of a busy life, the wheel
 “ slackening its motion in proportion as it
 “ draws nearer to its point of rest. I thank
 “ God I enjoy much better health than I
 “ could expect, but shall not, I hope, reluc-
 “ tantly resign my breath, whenever the So-
 “ vereign Giver shall demand it. While it
 “ lasts, I shall not fail to retain a cordial
 “ regard for you, and wishing you health and
 “ prosperity, I remain, &c.”

“ Your late favour upbraided me with
 “ laziness, but indeed it does me wrong, as
 “ my heart has not neglected you. Let me
 “ rejoice with you, in the first place, on the
 “ improvement of your health, the key to
 “ every

“ every earthly blessing, if a good conscience
 “ does but with its precious ointment touch
 “ the wards. Let me congratulate you on
 “ that also, with which, I believe, no man is
 “ better provided.

“ Your account of the Carthusian friars is
 “ very entertaining and instructive. It re-
 “ minds us what true religion is, by shewing
 “ us what it is not. It is not leading a use-
 “ less life in stately solitude. Religion and
 “ virtue consist in action alone, in such action
 “ as is regulated by a heart that is (as an
 “ Apostle defined it) *right towards God*; or
 “ (as our Saviour styled it) *an honest and good*
 “ *heart*. All appendages of religion, except
 “ such as tend to derive the influences of the
 “ Spirit of God into our souls, are the mere
 “ trappings hung on it by vanity and folly.”

Among my various remarks to Dr. Patten,
 I informed him that the Grand Duke Leopold
 had nearly stirred up a rebellion, in attempt-
 ing to make some reformation in the esta-
 blished religion, on which he remarked as
 follows:—

“ I agree with you that reformation of
 “ religion is a very difficult undertaking.

The

“ The common people are tenacious of errors
 “ in proportion to the efforts used to rectify
 “ them. Even in England, where religion is
 “ almost extinguished among the vulgar as
 “ well as the accomplished, the late altera-
 “ tions (although just) in favour of the
 “ Papists made no small noise. It is melan-
 “ choly to reflect by what multitudes that
 “ point is utterly mistaken, on which so im-
 “ portant a stake depends. In how little a
 “ compass does it lie? and what pains have
 “ been taken to mistake it? I rejoice to find,
 “ my dear friend, that you do not.

“ Reformations in religion are always dan-
 “ gerous; they are generally attended with
 “ consequences which they never proposed,
 “ and carry men from the extreme they re-
 “ probate to another as fatal. At the Refor-
 “ mation in England people were fond of the
 “ Bible, then first opened to them; but the
 “ novelty being over, the fondness has long
 “ since ceased, and all religious controul
 “ threatens to cease with it. If it were not
 “ for conscience, which works here and there
 “ with good effect, we should soon be as when
 “ there was no king in Israel.

“ My

“ My time of life cannot promise me, with
 “ any sort of assurance, that I shall ever have
 “ the happiness of meeting you in this world;
 “ and supposing the future state to resemble
 “ this in the pleasing interview of friends,
 “ I shall, if accounted worthy of heaven,
 “ assure myself of meeting you there.

“ I have been reading Socrates’ conversa-
 “ tion to his friends the day on which he
 “ drank the poison, and find that he enter-
 “ tained doubts like mine. Having lived a
 “ life of temperance and piety, he said, *I hope*
 “ *I am going where I shall enjoy the society of*
 “ *the Gods and of good men*; of this latter point
 “ indeed, I am not so confident, but I enter-
 “ tain with perfect confidence the expecta-
 “ tion of being admitted among the gods.
 “ It is not wrong to amuse ourselves with
 “ hopes that may after all prove vain and
 “ childish; but if they should prove so—if
 “ we should not see our earthly friends, we
 “ are well assured that *the pure in heart shall*
 “ *see God*.

“ I shall now tell you news of the happy
 “ marriages of some of your relations.—
 “ The youngest sister of your late cousin

“ J. L. B.

“ J. L. B. esq; has been married about three
 “ months to — Hulton, esq; of Hulton-
 “ Park, in Lancashire, with about £.3000
 “ a year; Betty, the eldest, has given her
 “ hand to Randle Ford, esq; grandson to
 “ the late celebrated Counsellor Wilbraham;
 “ Fanny, the third *Mermaid*,* has disposed
 “ of herself to her cousin Oliver; and Mr.
 “ Parkinson stays at Mere, as tutor to your
 “ cousin T. L. B. esq. The family at Daref-
 “ bury are all as they were, the young men
 “ single, and the maidens unmarried.

“ At present a rheumatic seizure in my
 “ loins makes me thank God that I have
 “ nothing to do, but sit still and enjoy the
 “ pleasure of writing to those friends whom I
 “ love; of which you have here a genuine
 “ specification.

“ My wife joins with me in affectionate
 “ wishes. We are preparing for our excur-
 “ sion into Lancashire, and hope to set out
 “ in ten days. She has a bad cough, and I
 “ fear is in no good way towards recovery.”

* The family estate is called *Mere*.

“ I have not been able, my dear sir, to write
 “ to you so long, since my time has been so
 “ anxiously engaged, as to have made it dif-
 “ ficult to attend to other concerns than that
 “ which seemed to swallow up every other.
 “ The declining health of a most dear and
 “ ever-pleasing companion has kept me for
 “ many months past in a perpetual alarm,
 “ and agitation of mind; and the calamity
 “ has increased of late so fast, and is now so
 “ imminent, that I feel myself still less and
 “ less able to turn my eyes from it to any
 “ other object. We were eight days on our
 “ journey from Childrey, and my poor sick
 “ companion had the comfort of finding her-
 “ self at the end of them in the circle of
 “ her affectionate and beloved friends at
 “ Daresbury, where she has been every day
 “ giving fresh tokens of her approaching
 “ dissolution; and whenever it happens, I can
 “ confidently say she will not leave behind her
 “ in this world a soul more pure, and more
 “ qualified for that blessed state into which
 “ she will be removed. My loss (whenever it
 “ falls upon me) will be as inexpressible as
 “ irreparable, but will serve to create in my
 “ mind

“ mind a happy indifference to all the desires
 “ of this world, and an eager longing for that
 “ blessedness (may it be in her sweet society!)
 “ which she will have gone to enjoy.* She
 “ desires to join me in love and hearty wishes
 “ for your health and happiness.

“ I am, your affectionate friend,

“ THOMAS PATTEN.”

LETTER LXV.

Pisa, July 3d, 1795.

I AM now a resident at this university, where we have several English families, and many gentlemen from the fleet and army in Corsica; so that the noble family you mention which are coming from England, would not, perhaps, dislike to stay some little time here; and I shall have no objection to make the tour of Italy with them, being convinced they will be much pleased with the company of several persons to whom I can introduce them. The

* This lady died of a consumption, and her tender husband did not long survive her.

ladies here have received a licence from the Pope to see the noble Carthusian convent, six miles from hence;* I shall be of the party, being well acquainted with the prior, who desired me to fix the day for our visit, when, I dare say, we shall have an elegant meagre dinner. This convent is seven hundred feet square, and the most magnificent in Italy; each friar has two small rooms, to which their dinner is carried, as they never dine together but on particular days, when they are permitted to converse, but the prior and rector are not under this restriction. Over the superb portal of the entrance is inscribed, *Ob beata Solitudo*.

The prior of this convent annually makes me a present of a dozen flasks of virgin oil, so called, because the olives when ripe, being hung up in a net, are squeezed only by their own weight; by which mode of pressure it is infinitely more delicate than that which is extracted by a press. The taste of this oil is equal to the finest butter, and could not be purchased but at a greater price.

* Without such licence no female can be admitted.

LETTER LXVI.

Pisa, August 1st, 1795.

HAVING already mentioned the convent near Pisa, I will relate to you an adventure which happened at another near Milan.—Being in that city some years since, and dining with an Austrian officer who had married an English young Lady, she requested that I would accompany her to a convent of friars some miles distant, which was the most elegant of any in that country.

Some of her female acquaintance having lately been there in men's habits, she had also prepared herself in the like manner to go the next day; but her cicisbeo had refused to accompany her, through fear of excommunication, for conducting a female into a convent of friars without a licence. On my asking her husband if he was to be of the party? he replied, "I beg, sir, you will make
 " no ceremony, as we seldom go together on
 " such jaunts, and you will do us both a
 " favour if you will accept the charge, as I
 " wish

“ wish her not to be disappointed; my friend
 “ will give you a letter (as an Englishman)
 “ to the prior of the convent, and she can
 “ pass as your son.”

Being about to return to Leghorn, I wished to decline the offer; but, as she said the going and returning would not exceed two days, I at last consented. On asking how she was to be equipped? “ I have (says she) a military
 “ riding-habit, and I shall take with me a
 “ pair of my husband’s satin small-clothes.
 “ That the servants may not know our in-
 “ tent, they are to stop with the carriage at a
 “ village three miles from the convent, and
 “ there wait our return. At the village there
 “ will be a country carriage to take us on to
 “ a farm-house, about a quarter of a mile
 “ from the convent, where I shall drop my
 “ habit-petticoat, and put on the small-
 “ clothes.” “ Are you sure, madam, (said I)
 “ that they will fit you?” “ Yes, sir, because
 “ I wore them at a masquerade last carnival.”

We accordingly set out at six o’clock the next morning, and arrived at the farm-house at five in the afternoon. The farmer shewed her into a room, for which, and his secrecy, she

she presented him with a trifle. In adjusting her dress, she called me into the room, exclaiming that the breeches were too small. Understanding that part of the dress better than she did, I desired the farmer to give me some packthread to expand them behind; he brought me the only piece he had in the house, which was more fit to fasten a boat to a ship, than for such a delicate purpose, and after much pulling and hauling, she with difficulty got them on.

We now walked to the convent, and delivered the letter to the procurator, Father Francis, (the prior being on a journey) who offered us every civility, hoping we would stay a few days there, and he would do himself the honour to sup with us that evening at any hour we chose; and after drinking a glass of excellent wine, he invited us to walk in the garden. The lady complained to me in English of her tight breeches, (the friar not understanding that language) so we sat down on a marble seat; but her spirits being too active to attend to the dry discourse between me and Father Francis, and spying some autumn figs hanging over our heads, she sprang
up

up to gather them, but the tightness of her dress prevented her from getting both feet on the seat, the foot that was on the marble sliding too far, so strained the breeches that they were split from stem to stern.

I desired a lay-brother to fetch her great-coat, and to tell his taylor to bring a needle and thread; for the breeches were almost divided into two parts, and were kept together only by the waistband, therefore she could not well stir, till they were repaired. The lay-brother having brought the great-coat, I put it on her, and soon after we saw the taylor running across the garden towards us: 'I won't have this greasy fellow (says she) to handle me over;' "Why then, madam, "I must be your taylor:" and kneeling down, with the thread about my neck, I set about repairing the foresail. "Diavolo!" (cried I) 'What is the matter?' (said the peeping friar) "I have pricked my finger terribly, sir."— 'For God's sake (said the lady) make haste, 'that we may get into the house, as it is 'growing dark.' Uncouthly as I did the the business, it was sufficient to enable her to walk with the great coat round her, and
 Father

Father Francis conducted us to the prior's chamber, where he left us, while he performed the duties of his office with his brotherhood.

At ten o'clock, the table being spread for supper, Father Francis joined us, and we spent the evening very agreeably. Looking round the apartment, I observed to him that there was but one bed. "We have no more un-
 " engaged, (said he) but you and your son
 " can lie together for this night; or he shall
 " sleep in my field-bed, and I will repose on a
 " sofa." "Well, madam, (said I) you know
 ' the alternative; will you go to the friar's
 ' chamber, or repose in this?" "Here, most
 " assuredly, (said she) otherwise I shall be
 " discovered." So wishing the friar a good
 night, I do the same to you.

"Evil be to him that evil thinks."

LETTER LXVII.

Pisa, August 14th, 1795.

I WILL now give you the remainder of our
 adventure at the convent.

After

After the friar had left us at night, we settled the preliminaries for repose; and as the bed was very large, the long cushion of a sofa was placed in the middle as a barrier. When the lady was in bed, I delivered her shattered rigging to the taylor, that it might be repaired. In the morning the taylor opened the chamber door, (which I thought locked) and was abruptly running with the breeches towards the bed; but I stopped him short, being myself already dressed. Conceiving that he thought my pretended son was a female, to prevent further discovery, I said to him, "Look you, sir, I insist that you will say nothing of what you have seen, as I well know you have before now been privy to admission of females into the convent;" then giving him a small present, desired him to inform Father Francis that in half an hour we should be glad to have breakfast.

The lady put on the breeches, which had been bunglingly repaired by the monastic taylor, and I advised her never again to bring contraband goods into an enemy's garrison; "for if you are now permitted to retreat undiscovered, it will be from the good-nature
" of

“ of our host, as he must be blind to mistake
 “ your sex.” On going into his apartment,
 we were accommodated with a comfortable
 breakfast of coffee, fruits, &c. after which
 he walked with us about the convent, to shew
 us whatever was worthy observation. While
 he retired to perform the duties of his office,
 we went into the garden, and sitting down on
 the marble seat, laughed heartily at the cata-
 trophe of the preceding afternoon. The lady
 said she should remember it as long as she
 lived; and I advised her to avoid in future
 touching forbidden fruit, for the friar had
 really told her that the figs she attempted to
 gather were not ripe.

At three o'clock Father Francis joined us,
 and we sat down to an excellent dinner; after
 which, thanking him for his great attention
 to us, we took our leave, and returned to the
 farm-house where we were glad to arrive, as
 the lady's small-clothes had begun again to
 crack; and after my *young officer* was again
 transformed into a *woman*, the country car-
 riage conducted us back to the village where
 her coach was waiting. We slept there that
 night, and returned to Milan the next day to
 dinner;

dinner; when delivering the tattered sattin to her husband, she related the scene in the convent garden, at which he was highly diverted. The next day I took leave of them, and departed for Leghorn.

LETTER LXVIII.

Pisa, Jan. 12th, 1796.

I WILL now give you some observations on the customs of Italy, which have hitherto passed unnoticed.

The houses are from three to five stories high; each floor is for the residence of one family, in which a fire seldom happens, and when it does, it cannot easily communicate to the next house, as the principal walls are three feet thick. The door and window-cases of all houses being of freestone or marble, the floors brick, and the walls of the rooms painted instead of being furnished with hangings, contribute much to the safety of houses against fire.

Over the gate of the houses of many of the nobility in Florence hangs an empty flask, as
a sign

a sign for selling wine, the produce of their own estates. At one side of the gate is a square hole big enough to admit an empty flask; the person wanting wine rings a bell, when a servant in the inside fills the flask, and the money being paid, the purchaser carries it away.

All kinds of grain are threshed immediately after the harvest, and put into granaries under ground, the walls of which are of double brick, and they are large enough to contain from one to two thousand bushels. Around the inside of these vaults are fastened ropes of straw, to keep the grain from touching the bricks. When the vault is filled, it is stopped with a thick stone, and earth is thrown over it, to prevent the rain from penetrating. If the grain be not disposed of, it is taken out every summer, and dried on large sheets of sail-cloth, by which method it is kept sweet and free from vermin, which could not otherwise be the case in this warm climate.

The nobility, particularly in Venice, are a severe scourge to their neighbours and fellow-citizens, and whenever any of them leave the
city

city to go to their country-palaces, the parents in the neighbourhood send their daughters away to some distance, to prevent their being debauched, and wait in fear and dread for the arrival of their despotic lord. The case is far different with the farmers and tenants of our English nobility, as they speak with pleasure of their lord coming to his country-seat, and he looks on them as his friends. This is not the case with the nobility only, but our private gentlemen of fortune, who reside in the country, are looked up to by their poor neighbours as friends and protectors.

I do not say that some such characters are not to be found in Italy; I have had the good fortune to be acquainted with several most worthy families.

The King of Naples is sometimes absent from court on his hunting-parties and female visits, so that the cares of state center generally in his Excellency Mr. Acton, an Englishman. The Queen, it is said, is not without her amusements, and is thought sometimes to interfere in affairs of state. In reports of the former they exceed the truth, but the latter her friends do not deny.

As

As newspapers in Italy are always examined before they are printed, the true characters of people do not often appear to the public; but when they want to lampoon, it is done by sticking a written paper against the door of the person aimed at, which is called a Pasquinade. The Neapolitans, disliking a foreigner to be prime minister, caused the following to be affixed to the gate of the palace:

“ Hic Regina,

“ Hæc Rex,

“ Hic, hæc, et hoc Acton.”

LETTER LXIX.

Pisa, Feb. 20th, 1796.

THAT you might not charge me with inattention, I will furnish you with some further remarks on the customs of this country.

Sunday is here a day of extraordinary mirth and pleasure; for, after hearing a short mass, all ranks of people think they have fulfilled the obligation of keeping holy the sabbath,
and

and the theatres and all other places of amusement are more thronged on Sunday nights than on any other.

In the summer there are vacations of operas, and the theatres are then hired by *Strioni*, (strolling-players) who, to please the lower class of people, perform comedies of their own composing, full of low buffoonery or downright bawdry. Their novels are generally of the same kind, so that it is not surprising the morals of the people are so much depraved; yet there are some families who have not imbibed such bad principles.

You will recollect that, in a former letter, I mentioned my having spent an agreeable day with a family at Torre del Greco, before that city was destroyed by the eruption from mount Vesuvius; I will now mention some particulars respecting them.

A banker of Naples dying, left a widow, a daughter, and a son; the latter being obliged by law to provide for his mother and sister, placed them in a small house separate from his own, and provided a maid-servant to attend them. A young man, who, prior to that event had paid his addresses to the sister, continued

tinued to visit her, though not now with an intention of marriage, as her father had left her but a small pittance as a marriage portion. To accomplish his dishonourable ends, he bribed the servant-maid (who was accustomed to lie with her young mistress) to put a sleeping draught into the wine which the mother and daughter were to drink at supper. When the young lady was asleep, the maid admitted him to her bed, and he accomplished his villainous design without much resistance, the young lady being in a state of intoxication by the draught she had taken. Before day-light she awoke much terrified, but he pacified her by a promise of marriage the following week; and repeated his visits till the promised happy day, when, to her grief and astonishment, she saw him no more.

On her proving pregnant, her brother was acquainted with what had happened; but instead of resenting the injuries done to his family, he placed the infant as soon as born in the Foundling-hospital, and his unhappy sister in a convent. The term of her noviceship being nearly expired, her perfidious lover was one night seized with remorse, and re-

penitance knocking at the door of conscience, informed him what he ought to do; whereupon he wrote a letter to the injured lady, saying, if she would forgive his former unkind behaviour, he would prevent her from taking the veil, and marry her. She did not hesitate to return the wished-for answer; and on receipt of it the lover ran to her brother, telling him his intention of marriage, and that he wanted no dowry with her. The brother consented to his sister being taken from the convent, and they were immediately married. The husband took his mother-in-law to live with him, and the foundling was also brought home. A few years having elapsed in mutual felicity, and their family increasing, the brother proposed to live with them, intending never to marry, and to leave all his possessions to his sister at his death; this was accepted, and they now live together in the most affectionate manner.

Instead of concealing what had passed, the husband's original letter and his wife's answer are placed in a frame hung in their bed-chamber, which I saw and read.

The day after the eruption of mount Vesuvius, I went to Torre del Greco, and enquiring

for that worthy family, I was exceedingly glad to be informed that none of them had been buried under the lava, but were all safe at their country villa a few miles distant.

LETTER LXX.

Pisa, March 31st, 1796.

THIS city is very extensive, surrounded by a high wall, the river Arno running through its centre, over which are three excellent bridges, the middle one being entirely of marble.

Here is an university excellently conducted. The professors of arts and sciences are well paid by the Grand Duke. The cathedral is a noble structure; two rows of seventy tall columns of granite support two superb galleries. The pictures over the altars, although modern, are much esteemed.

The very high beautiful marble tower, called the Campanelle, on the top of which the great bell is hung, is separate from the church, and leans as if on the point of falling;

it was close to my garden, inclining that way. I have several times examined it, and discovered that the foundation on that side had sunk. This, I believe, is the true cause of its present position, though some others are of a different opinion; but I am certain that an architect who could construct so beautiful an edifice, would not have placed it in that leaning form in order to give the eye pain.

On the other side, separate from the church, is *Il Campo Santo*, or the burying-ground, six hundred feet long and four hundred wide, inclosed by a very high wall. On entering into it, we are struck with the magnificence and beauty of that superb cloister, of late years the place of interment for the Pisans, though now not used for that purpose, as the Grand Duke Leopold has lately constructed another *Campo Santo* one mile from the city. Around the cloisters are a vast number of ancient Greek and Roman stone tombs and mausoleums standing on their pedestals. Scriptural and historical ancient paintings in high preservation adorn the spacious walls; all which give the building a most solemn appearance. As it was within two hundred yards of my house,

house, and having free access, I often in summer spent some hours there; being defended from the sun, it was a charming cool retreat, and well adapted for the adoration of the Supreme Being, and private meditation.

The amusement of cicisbeism is more general in inland cities than in sea-ports, and I do not know one family here who exclude themselves from that custom. The Grand Duke Leopold made an attempt to alter this fashion, but could not succeed; it was not, he declared, on account of the supposed criminality, but such attachments prevented men of genius from pursuing their studies, and arts and sciences were thus neglected.

Highly dignified persons at Rome are also so attached. Some of the cardinals being one morning at an audience with the present Pope, and conversing on this subject, one of them thanked God that he had no such connection; at which his Holiness smiling, asked the cardinal for a pinch of snuff; ‘I have not that vice, holy father,’ (said he.) “Ah!” (replied the Pope) if your eminence thought it a vice, you would have been in possession of it long ago.”

LETTER

LETTER LXXI.

Leghorn, May 15th, 1797.

TO prevent your surprize at not hearing from me so long, I inform you that I was confined to my bed seven months, after an operation on my right eye, which did not succeed any better than the former operation on my left eye; the cataracts, having been depressed, unfortunately rose again.

I was in bed in a high fever at Pisa, with my eyes bound up, when General Buonaparte with an army passed under my window, on the 27th of June last year, on his march to Leghorn. Two days previous to his taking possession of that city, the English Factory, having received notice of his coming, quitted it, carrying with them their most valuable effects; the remainder was confiscated, by order of the General.

The merchandize that I could not well dispose of previous to going to Pisa for my health, had been left in my warehouse, of which I had the keys; but having no notice of the General's intent to enter Leghorn, I
used

used no precaution to send off my property; which was by this means all confiscated, and some valuable mercantile books and papers were also lost in the confusion, together with a variety of other articles of value; as my warehouse was broke open and stripped of every thing, without a possibility of my able to prevent it.

The amount of my effects so seized was considerable, as was proved by the affidavits of those who were witnesses to the deposit of them in the warehouse. The Consul and Factory are not yet returned to Leghorn, but I hear they have sanguine hopes of being repaid their losses; if so, mine of course will be included.

LETTER LXXII.

Leghorn, May 25th, 1797.

IT has been a bad time ever since the French entered into Italy. My outstanding credits here, at Rome, Venice, &c. are not inconsiderable, but will be irrecoverable till the war is ended. For although the law-
courts

courts do not openly refuse to try causes for the recovery of property, still they are inactive, or are privately instructed to procrastinate suits for English demands against the French or native merchants; and even supposing that a favourable verdict should be given, it may be that the debtor would be obliged to deposit in the tribunal the amount of the sentence; which sum, in case these parts of Italy should fall to the French arms, would be confiscated. I shall therefore leave all proofs of my outstanding credits in the hands of some acquaintance who will undertake the charge, and return to England by the first good opportunity, to put myself under the care of an able oculist, in hopes to recover my sight, without which I shall be miserable,

LETTER LXXIII.

Leghorn, Sept. 8th, 1797.

I AM glad to find by your letter that Capt. Taylor delivered the parcel, and that your pretty daughter is recovered by the medicine

I sent

I sent her, but I am sorry your good wife has had so severe an attack of the palsy in her left side; I therefore this day send by the post a small parcel of medicine, which will be sufficient till the carrier arrives, by whom, to-morrow, I shall send a larger quantity. Pray observe that the prescription and directions are well attended to, and that the external unction be used as I have set down.

Tell your wife to be of good spirits, as a gentleman now at Pisa had, three months since, a more severe attack, with almost the loss of speech; which latter he has not only recovered, by the like medicine, but has also acquired bodily strength sufficient to take long walks; and intends in a few days to set off on foot to Rome, (a distance of about two hundred miles) with his servant, and he is in hopes, by easy steps, in the warmth of the day, to be able to reach that city without the help of a carriage; and I trust in God your good wife will soon be able to sing and dance as usual.

You talk of coming to Pisa baths as soon as your wife can be moved; this I beg to object to, as Italy is in a very convulsed state.

I rather

I rather advise your taking her to England, and there place her under the care of our faculty, whose candour and abilities can be depended on; and should warm bathing be proposed, you can convey her to the city of Bath, where the medical gentlemen are in high estimation; and when able to be carried or to walk abroad, her mind will there be diverted, which is absolutely necessary in disorders of that nature. If you think her too weak to go to England by way of Hamburgh, your friends in Berne will procure a passport to go through France.

You may continue to write till I inform you that I have fixed my route for England; and it may be that I shall pass by way of Berne, and thence to Hamburgh or Paris, if I can obtain leave for the latter; in either case, I shall spend a few days with you at Berne.

LETTER

LETTER LXXIV.

Leghorn, Nov. 6th, 1797.

IN the Florence Gazette of the 4th instant, is a copy of Admiral De Winter's letter to the Dutch Admiralty, with an account of the fleet under his command being totally defeated by the British Squadron.

It gives me pleasure that the orders of the brave Admiral Duncan were so well supported by Vice-Admiral Onslow, as I was well acquainted with the latter, having had the misfortune to be cast away with him in the North Sea.

To prevent your asking my situation on board a ship of war, I inform you that in the year 1762, I had travelled over a great part of Germany, and was near Petersburg, but was prevented from proceeding farther by the movements of troops, as the late Emperor of Russia at that period was deposed; therefore I returned to Dantzic, where I received great civilities from the worthy family of the Right Honourable William Anderson, Lord Mayor, and one of the Representatives in Parliament for the city of London.

Leaving

Leaving Dantzic, I went down the coast of Pomerania to Elsinore, where dining with the English Consul in company with the then Captain Onslow, I accepted his invitation to sail with him in the Humber man of war for England, and during the voyage he treated me in a polite and friendly manner.

In the beginning of November, the ship unfortunately struck on some hidden rocks or sand banks north of Yarmouth Roads, and she became a perfect wreck; but fortunately, the next day we were taken up by a sloop of war, together with that part of the crew which had not perished, and we happily arrived at Yarmouth.

The good discipline kept up by Captain Onslow during the voyage caused him to be loved and feared, and his commands were well obeyed, even after the ship became a wreck; therefore I am not surprised that Admiral Duncan's efforts were so well seconded by Admiral Onslow in the memorable action with the Dutch fleet.

LETTER

LETTER LXXV.

Leghorn, Nov. 13th, 1797.

IN my last I told you of having been at Elfinore; while there, I dined with the Governor of the Castle that commands the passage of the Baltic.

Among other things, he informed me of some particulars respecting the ghost of Hamlet so admirably depicted by Shakespear, and shewed me the spot where the spirit was accustomed to appear for a number of years after his untimely death.

The apparition of spirits and haunted houses were firmly believed by this Governor; and in other places of Germany I found even learned men possessed the same ideas.

In Westphalia I was one night constrained by a violent storm to lay at a lonely house, once the habitation of a gentleman who had quitted it on account of its being haunted. Being wet and tired, I should have had a comfortable night's rest, had I not been disturbed by my affrighted servant, who lay in a room adjoining, and bursting into my chamber

ber, at midnight, awoke me, refusing to return, saying that he had seen and heard what I believe was only in his imagination.

The like prejudices are prevalent in Italy, and were I to recount the variety of stories of this kind, they would fill a large volume; yet I am apt to think that the idea of such goblins is partly kept up by people walking in their sleep, which is more common in this warm climate than in countries more northern.

However, not to repeat the many serious as well as ridiculous stories that I have heard, I will give you one instance, by a letter I received from a friend of mine at Venice, of which the following is a copy:

“ Venice, Ascension Day.

“ I arrived here late last night, but unluckily all the inns were filled by a crowd of people assembled to see the insipid ceremony of marrying the Doge to the sea. At length my valet de chambre procured a lodging for me at a lady's house, the young widow of a Venetian merchant, whom I found at supper, of which by her desire I partook.

“ Some time after supper, the servant-maid shewed me to the chamber where I was to sleep,

sleep, in which was a *presepio**; after pleasingly viewing it, I went to bed, and about two o'clock in the morning I was awakened by a voice in the room crying out *venite qui*, (come here) at which I started up in the bed, and ruminated with myself what to do, as I could see nothing, the small lamp hanging so far back in the recess of the altar that it reflected no light into the chamber. Some minutes afterwards the *venite qui* were uttered, but in a quicker voice; at which in a serious manner I asked the spirit what it wanted; whereupon the former words were again uttered with a more commanding tone of voice. Hearing the toilet rattle, I took the extinguished candle from my bed-side, and quickly springing on the altar, I lit it by the lamp, when I saw an apparition of a woman sitting at the toilet, at which I softly slid down from the altar, and by the hard breathing of the supposed spirit, I conceived it to be a person that had

* An altar in the form of a grotto, to represent the nativity of our Saviour by a variety of emblematic figures and a child lying in a manger. Such altars are erected by most families some days before Christmas, and are often very costly, according to circumstances, and at the expiration of the Ascension they are taken down and preserved till the next season.

walked

walked thither in her sleep; going nearer, I placed the candle on the toilet, and discovered it to be the lady of the house, sitting before the glass in a short bed-gown, with her eyes open, but fixed.

“I have heard of instances of striking those walking in their sleep by way of cure; this I dared not to do, being a stranger, and I gently awoke her, at which she would have fallen on the floor had I not caught her in my arms; when she apologized for having disturbed me, saying that she was unfortunately accustomed to such nightly walks, and that she had been dreaming of calling her servant to dress her; I then led her to her chamber, being the next to mine, the door-way of which was only covered with the silk hanging of my room, which I did not discover previous to going to bed. Returning to my chamber, I was more convinced that what is generally said to be apparitions or ghosts are of this kind, or invented to frighten people for some particular purpose.”

SUPPLEMENT.

WHEN I left England, in 1785, I travelled through France, and hiring a boat at Lyons, in company with Mr. Bulteel and Mr. Gawler, of London, we arrived at Avignon; thence prosecuting our journey, we came to Nice, where I embarked on board a felucca for Genoa.

The winds being contrary, forced the felucca into port every evening, so that I had an opportunity of seeing Monaco, St. Remo, Oneglia, Finale, Savona, and several other towns in the Genoese state, and arrived at Genoa the 8th of January, 1786, where I hired another felucca for Leghorn. Staying here two days, I had an opportunity of viewing some of the pictures in that city, which other travellers have particularly described, but those which pleased me most were the following; viz.

The death of Cleopatra (by Guido) is finely expressed; the poison seems to ascend from the breast to the more noble part; her once beauteous form appears gradually to lose its
s
colour,

colour, and she expires. Those celebrated charms which had so long captivated Mark Antony, and, for a moment, Cæsar, behold now faded and dead!

The death of Seneca is most feelingly drawn; we shudder to see him in his dying moments. His feet are in the bath, the blood running from him. His placid departing soul gives joy to the centurion who was placed at the bath to see the sentence carried into execution, in order to convey to Nero the desirable news of the death of that great philosopher.

Another most charming and pleasing picture, is the assumption of the Virgin Mary. Here we see a virgin and angels joyfully ascending into heaven. What purity in that divine countenance! With what pleasure do the angels follow and surround her; while her blessed smiles seem to pierce the heavens where she is expected!

The captain of the felucca announcing that the wind was fair, I again embarked, and being stopped by contrary winds one day at Massa, I had there an opportunity of viewing the quarries of statuary and veined marble,
from

from which the world has, for so many ages, been adorned: I then left Massa, and arrived at Leghorn on the 12th of January 1786.

After eleven years residence in Italy, I determined to return to England, and having obtained a passport from the Grand Duke of Tuscany, with another from the French agent at Leghorn, I embarked the 28th of November 1797, with an Italian servant, on board a felucca for Genoa, where I arrived on the 8th of December. In this city I received much civility from Mr. Heath, a very eminent banker, related to the learned Judge of that name, to whom I have the honour of being known.

I then took places in a vetura, or stage-coach, for Turin, where my baggage underwent a severe inspection, and my case of valuable opium, which I would not hazard by sea, or trust to any carrier, was, on account of its large quantity, taken to the custom-house, and by the officers refused to be delivered up.

The anxiety I was under to recover what was seized, drew from me some involuntary expressions, which caused the director of the

custom-house to threaten that it should be totally confiscated. By means of my Tuscan and French passports, I got presented to the prime Minister of his Sardinian Majesty; when explaining to him the use I intended the opium for in England, and the impossibility of procuring (during the war) from my friend in Turkey, the like quantity of so pure a kind, an order was sent to the director of the customs to release my property without duty or fees.

On leaving Turin, I took another coach, and came the same day to the foot of Mount Cenis, where my baggage being placed on mules, I ascended the mountain in an open elbow chair, carried by four men, and travelling over the frozen lake on its summit, the chair was placed on a sledge, at the brink of the hill, a man sitting before me with his legs hanging over the chair, to guide it by his heels; we were then set going over the icy surface of the steep declivity, and in twelve minutes reached the bottom, a distance of more than two miles.

The next day I continued my journey through the frozen roads of Savoy, where
the

the air was intensely cold;* and after six days dragging through and over the mountains from Turin, I was heartily glad to find myself at Geneva on the 28th of December.

Having been confined some days at Geneva, through illness, occasioned by the intense cold, I hired a coach for Lyons, and after being often detained by the badness of the roads, which had not been repaired since the Revolution, I arrived at Paris on the 27th of January, 1798.

My first object was to deliver letters which I had brought from some persons of importance in Italy; in consequence of which I received two short Visits. The conversation being of moment, and having the appearance of a Pacific nature, I conceived it to be a duty, on my arrival in England, to offer to communicate it to some person in Power; together with an account of the sad situation of British commerce in Italy, and my ideas of preventing its threatened annihilation.

* Before the war Savoy belonged to the King of Sardinia, but is now a part of the French Republic.

I had

I had also a letter from a friend in Italy to a gentleman at Paris, at whose house I met a French General, with whom I conversed on different topics. The next day the same officer dined at the *table d'hôte* of the hotel where I lodged, and addressing his conversation particularly to me, said that he had the honour to have a principal command in the army destined for the invasion of England; “ where
 “ if we can once put our foot, (said he) we
 “ are sure of success, as there is nothing to
 “ oppose us but a miserable militia. We
 “ have also certain promises of being assisted
 “ on landing by a very large body of people;
 “ and even supposing that we do not carry
 “ our intended invasion into immediate execution, yet we shall keep you in a state of
 “ alarm, and by continuing our efforts in
 “ Italy, shall secure that part of the continent
 “ to our interest, and thereby destroy your
 “ commerce in the Mediterranean.”

To all this I made very little answer; but his repeating the like discourse the next day, and making use of insulting and unmerited language against his Majesty and his Ministers, occasioned me to give him a warm reply.

To

To his first assertion, I said, that ‘ he was
 ‘ not well informed; as our corps of militia
 ‘ consisted of upwards of one hundred and
 ‘ fifty thousand men, as well disciplined as any
 ‘ troops of the line, and that they would never
 ‘ give way to an equal number of enemies.
 ‘ That their officers were gentlemen by birth
 ‘ and education, and were actuated by a spirit
 ‘ equal to any in the world; and being all
 ‘ possessed of landed and other great property,
 ‘ they would defend it to the last extremity.’
 I also said that, ‘ In addition to these, we
 ‘ had a very large body of volunteers, horse
 ‘ and foot, composed chiefly of yeomen and
 ‘ gentlemen of fortune and indisputable cou-
 ‘ rage.’ In answer to his second position, I
 conceived that he was entirely misled; ‘ for
 ‘ however much the gentlemen in opposition
 ‘ to the British Ministry may differ from them
 ‘ in some points, yet I believed they would
 ‘ most heartily join in the general defence of
 ‘ their king and country, in case of an actual
 ‘ invasion.’

Having been a great sufferer by the incur-
 sions of the French in Italy, I began to say
 something very severe on that head, but
 checked

checked myself, under an idea that he would not keep secret my reply.

Being now possessed of my passports, with ample leave to quit France whenever I thought proper, I left Paris, and embarking at Calais on board a Swedish packet, arrived at Dover on the 8th of February last.

As the first intent of my journies through Italy was to examine its commerce, I therefore beg leave to say more on that subject.

In the year 1782 I delivered a satisfactory statement on the vast importance of the manufactures of this kingdom, before a Committee of Noblemen and Gentlemen, met for the purpose of opposing a petition to Parliament for the exportation of wool, at the Thatched-House Tavern, the Right Hon. Sir George Yonge, bart. being in the Chair; and prior to my leaving England, in 1785, I waited on that gentleman, who, with his constant attention to the commerce of England, desired me, as I was going into Italy, to make observations on the same; to assist which, he said, that Lord Caermarthen (now his Grace the Duke of Leeds) would readily give me letters to the British Ministers on that

checked

part

part of the continent. Accordingly I went with my most worthy friend John Knill, esq; to the Secretary of State's office, and received from his Grace official letters to that purpose; and from time to time I informed him of what occurred in my journey worthy of his notice, which I transmitted to my friend Mr. Knill, who delivered the same to ——— Frazer, esq; under-Secretary of State, to be by him laid before his Grace; and that gentleman informed Mr. K. that the noble Duke was much pleased with my informations.

When the late Lord Hervey was appointed Envoy at Florence, Mr. K. sent me another official letter for him from the Right Hon. Lord Grenville, to pay attention to any thing I should propose for the benefit of British commerce; and during his Lordship's embassy, I had frequent interviews with him at Florence and Leghorn, when I explained to him what I had transmitted to his Majesty's Secretaries of State, respecting our trade in Italy and Turkey; and I received many letters from him, approving of my observations, and advising me to go through Italy once more, in order to compleat what I had begun;
his

his Lordship not doubting that Government would one day reward me for my trouble and expences; which I presume to hope for, as the informations I had transmitted to my Lord Grenville were much approved of, and Mr. K. sent me a letter which he had received from George Aust, esq; under-Secretary of State, saying that “ he had orders from Lord
 “ Grenville to thank Mr. Brooke for his very
 “ judicious observations on British commerce,
 “ which his Lordship conceived to be of much
 “ national importance, &c.”

At a future period (if the Almighty shall please to give me strength) I will, for the benefit of trade in general, explain more at length the foregoing particulars, and also what I have since the present war transmitted from Italy to his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

Before I left England in 1785, I presented to the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a plan for the improvement of foreign commerce, and for the protection of the fair trader; which, after I was abroad, was carried into a law, and the revenue was thereby suddenly increased one million sterling
 per

per annum more than the average of the fix years before the act took place; which that gentleman declared in the House of Commons arose from that plan only: and having trusted to his well-known honour and generosity, I presume to flatter myself with hopes of being in some measure rewarded, which, at this period will be particularly acceptable, being returned to England, unfortunately induced to quit Italy with the loss of much property, through the invasion of that country by the French.

POSTSCRIPT.

ON the 29th of December, 1797, being the day after I arrived at Geneva from Turin, a coach stopped at the hotel where I lodged, in which was my friend from Switzerland, (to whom the foregoing letters had been addressed) together with his wife and family.

His lady was so far recovered (by the medicine I sent her) of the disorder mentioned in my letter of the 8th of September last, (inserted in
page

page 249) as to be able to undertake the journey to Venice in that inclement season, over the frozen mountain of St. Bernard, which must be travelled on horseback, as no carriage can pass over that rugged mountain. She articulated then as well as ever, though her husband said her mouth had been very much distorted by her late illness.

This lady, from motives of pure humanity, desired me to publish her peculiar case, which I most certainly will do at a future period; to which I shall subjoin all such physical remarks as I have made in visiting the universities and hospitals, during my several journies through Italy; and the various cases of afflicted persons under my care, with the medical prescriptions used in their cure.

The invaluable medicines, happily administered in the before-mentioned cases, I was earnestly requested, by my friends, to publish under his Majesty's letters patent; but the indelicacy of describing, in print, the method of removing temporary obstructions,* and other Female Complaints, and the inconveniencies arising from the difficulty

* See page 39 line 5

— 41 — 5

— 43 — 3

— 132 — 23

— 216 — 14

of describing maladies minutely, and of adapting the medicines to general use, have induced me (till a future period) to postpone laying them before the public.

In the mean time, I shall be ready to attend to the Case of any person at a distance, (through the medium of some friend here) who may be unhappily afflicted with either of the Complaints mentioned in the foregoing pages; and I will readily wait on those who may desire a personal interview, provided the journey be not too long.

N. BROOKE.

Bath, June 11, 1798.



of describing medicines minutely, and of applying
the medicines to general use, have induced me
(till a future period) to postpone writing them be-
fore the public.

In the mean time, I shall be ready to attend to
the Case of any person at a distance, (through
the medium of some friend here) who may be
unhappily afflicted by the Complaints
mentioned in the foregoing pages; and I will re-
dily send on these medicines to any person in
foreign parts, provided the journey be not too long.

N. BROOKE.

Edin. Jan. 11. 1758.

